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PART XXV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

May 1878.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXV.

No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 32. Political.)

Scutari, April 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed that the Montenegrins are raising a battery with earthen parapets three metres wide on Punta Veloriza, the eastern extremity of the Bay of Antivari, and that the lines of another coast defence have been traced on the opposite point of Spiza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 2.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 33. Political.)

Scutari, April 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Montenegrins are said to have, during the past night, assaulted one of the military stations near Podgoritza, and to have inflicted a loss on the Turks of one killed and several wounded.

Explanations have been sought for from Montenegro by telegraph by Hussein Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 34. Political.)

Scutari, April 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to the Montenegrin attack near Podgoritza of the night before last, that Prince Nicholas is attempting to make the Turkish troops responsible for it, and that he has intimated that it may be advisable to suspend the intercourse which had recently been recommenced between the Turks and Montenegrins.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 4.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 35. Political.) *Scutari, April* 20, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Layard of the 16th instant, copy of which is herein inclosed, and to my Political despatches to your Lordship, Nos. 33 and 34 of the 17th and 18th instant, I have the honour to report that a Commission, composed of Turkish and Montenegrin officers, has endeavoured to ascertain, by an investigation held at Podgoritza, the manner in which the encounter near Dinoshi was brought about.

I understand the Court of Inquiry has not been able to arrive at an agreement on the subject.

The occurrence has confirmed me in the belief that the authorities here are under the impression that the peace now existing only bears the character of a truce, and, as they have not been in a position to realize the complete prostration of the Supreme Government, they are unable to understand that, should war break out again, they will be in no better state to resist the Montenegrins than when it ceased.

They fully believe that the Porte would not have telegraphed here that Podgoritza and Spuz are to be retained if it did not propose sending a sufficient number of battalions to make these places secure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, April 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Hussein Pasha has stated to me that he has received an official telegram from Constantinople, announcing to him that neither Spuz nor Podgoritza are to be ceded to Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 5.

The Turkish Prime Minister to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May* 1.)

Constantinople, le 24 Avril, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI lu le télégramme que votre Excellence a adressé au Ministère Impérial le 20 Avril. Je vous remercie du langage que vous avez tenu à Lord Salisbury à mon égard et qui me garantit votre concours précieux dans ma difficile tâche. Je vous prie de répéter en mon nom à sa Seigneurie ce que vous lui avez dit de votre part sur mes idées politiques en attendant que mes actes le disent.

No. 6.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May* 1.)

[Not to be published.]

Constantinople, le 27 Avril, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

J'E vous communique, pour votre information, le télégramme suivant de notre Ambassadeur à Vienne :—

"D'après des informations que j'ai recueillies de différents côtés, il serait de nouveau question de l'entrée d'un corps d'armée Autrichien en Bosnie. On m'a même assuré qu'un Conseil des Ministres tenu hier se serait exclusivement occupé de cette affaire. Pour motiver l'exécution de cette mesure, le Gouvernement prétexterait que, le crédit pour l'entretien des réfugiés étant épuisé, la rentrée de ces 150,000 individus en Bosnie occasionnerait des troubles que l'intérêt de l'Autriche est de réprimer à tout prix. En rattachant cette nouvelle au langage du Comte Andrassy dans l'entretien mentionné dans mon télégramme numéro spécial 262, elle prend un certain degré de probabilité. Dans cet entretien, le Ministre m'a parlé avec une certaine insistance de Bosnie. Il y est revenu à plusieurs reprises, en disant que les nouvelles limites assignées au Monténégro et à la Servie rendraient la possession de cette province impossible pour la Sublime Porte qui aurait, en outre, besoin d'y entretenir un nombre de troupes considérable, la rentrée des réfugiés ne pouvant manquer de donner le signal d'un soulèvement général; et il a ajouté: 'Vous verrez que ne seraient cette fois les Musulmans qui émigreraient chez nous.' Cette insistance à vouloir découvrir des difficultés, au moins exagérées, pourrait bien trahir l'arrière-pensée du Gouvernement de Vienne d'occuper bientôt la Bosnie sous prétexte d'y maintenir l'ordre.

"Je ne manquerai pas de tenir exactement votre Excellence au courant de tout ce que je parviendrai à apprendre de positif à cet égard."

No. 7.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May* 1.)

[Not to be published.]

Constantinople, le 29 Avril, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)

LES Russes nous pressent d'évacuer au moment plutôt les places de Choumla, de Varna, et de Batoum. Ils ont réuni près de cette dernière ville des troupes pour en prendre possession. Nous désirons savoir si nous devons nous opposer par les armes dans le cas où les Russes voudraient s'en emparer par la force. Veuillez en entretenir confidentiellement Lord Salisbury et me faire connaître la réponse de sa Seigneurie.

No. 8.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May* 1.)

[Not to be published.]

Constantinople, le 30 Avril, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

DEVANT l'insistance des bruits concernant une prochaine occupation de la Bosnie par les troupes Austro-Hongroises, Essad Bey a cru devoir interpeller à cet égard le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Vienne.

Ce dernier a opposé un démenti formel à cette nouvelle, et il l'a considérée comme une simple invention des journaux. Toutefois, la "Nouvelle Presse Libre" donne dans son dernier numéro les noms des soi-disants futurs Gouverneurs Civils de la Bosnie.

Notre Ambassadeur à Vienne nous télégraphie, en outre, que, d'après ses informations indirectes, le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois a prolongé de quinze jours le terme des subsides accordés aux réfugiés Bosniens.

No. 9.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 389. Confidential.) *Paris, April* 30, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me yesterday of the recent return of General Leflô, who has been in France on leave of absence, to his post as French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

M. Waddington said that he had instructed General Leflô to discuss from

expressing, on behalf of the French Government, opinions on the details of the Treaty of San Stefano, on the attitude of England, or on the presence of the British fleet in the Sea of Marmora. General Leflô was, in fact, directed to maintain with the Russian Government the same reserve which M. Waddington had himself observed when questioned by the Russian Ambassador here on these subjects.

M. Waddington added, however, that on one point General Leflô was authorized to speak positively. He was instructed not to conceal from the Russian Government that France was decidedly opposed to the extension of the new Bulgaria to the coast of the Ægean Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1878, 5 A.M.

THE proposal now made us for withdrawal of fleet and army to Besika and Adrianople is that, on notice given from either side, fleet shall return to Gallipoli, but shall allow four days from notice to elapse before entering Marmora.

The object of this movement is purely political, to relieve Sultan from Russian army in his immediate neighbourhood, which, without some such plan, may remain indefinitely; but I should be glad to know whether, in the opinion of Sir C. Dickson and Admiral Hornby, we should sacrifice any material military advantage by the arrangement.

No. 11.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 1, 1878.

I AM informed that Prince Labanow, who was formerly Russian Minister at Constantinople, has been appointed Ambassador at Constantinople, and will leave immediately.

No. 12.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 1, 1878.

THERE is a report here that Russian Government intend addressing a summons to the Porte to give up Shumla, Varna, and Batoum under threat of a renewal of hostilities in case of refusal. I think it right to report this rumour, but I cannot guarantee authenticity, and although not imminent this step may be taken at any moment.

No. 13.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May* 1, 1878.

PRINCE MILAN and Staff return to army in a couple of days; all officers on furlough recalled, and recruits joining ranks.

No. 14.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 1, 1878.

THREE men, I believe to be Russians, left this last night for Syra. One said he was Count Erman, a Swede; another, M. (?), a German; the third said he was Prince Altenberg. Her Majesty's Consul at Syra informs me they left to-day, accompanied by two attendants, supposed to be servants, for Smyrna. He asked Consul there to watch their movements. They are tall, light-haired men. At Smyrna they can find a steamer for Alexandria.

There are no ships under (American?) flag at the Piræus or Patras.

Sent to Constantinople, Rome, and Egypt.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 420.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Biliotti, dated yesterday:—

"Russians yesterday occupied Artwin, which was undefended. Three Turkish battalions are at Livina, whereto Russians are said to march from Erzeroum. Dervish Pasha was expected to start for Sikindjer; Laz, Pachas, and Delegates depart for Batoum (sic)."

No. 16.

Sir C. Wyke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, May* 1, 1878.

I AM informed that 2,000 Russian soldiers, in the guise of workmen, have sailed in German steamers from Revel, bound for the United States, to be followed by 1,000 or 2,000 more.

No. 17.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May* 1, 1878, 2·30 P.M.

I AM told that the 5,000 rifles, mentioned in my telegram No. 20, were duly delivered to Russian Colonel at Genoa, and have been consigned to a merchant at Alexandria.

No. 18.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 1, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday the steamer is the "Cimbria," with 600 Russian sailors and 63 officers, Grippenberg being in command. She keeps steam up, but by last accounts had not moved.

No. 19.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1878, 3·20 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of this day, you may inform Prince Milan, and then proceed at once to Bucharest to take charge of Agency.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Vivian.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I REQUEST that you will endeavour to procure, for the use of the Intelligence Branch of the War Office, the latest and best plans of Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Ward.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. WHITE, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, has been ordered to proceed to Bucharest, in order to take charge of the Agency.

On his arrival you will hand over to him the archives left in your charge by Colonel Mansfield.

No. 22.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Ward.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

ENDEAVOUR to communicate with Captain Gill and Lieutenant Ross, who have been sent into Roumania on a confidential mission, and inform them that all their reports must be sent through the Consulate-General at Bucharest, and by Foreign Office messenger, and not through the Post Office, to Colonel Home.

No. 23.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.**

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE to instruct you to procure, as soon as possible, for the use of the War Department, full information as to how the Russian troops are now posted in Roumania.

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Maude.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE to instruct you to procure, for the use of the War Department, full information as to where in Poland the Russian troops are now being massed.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will take steps to procure, as soon as possible, for the use of the War Department, full information from Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey and Asia as to how the Russian troops are now posted in their districts.

I have sent similar instructions to Belgrade and Bucharest.

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* A similar telegram was sent to Captain Ward.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878, 7.5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN answer to a question from Musurus Pasha as to what I would do if I were in the place of the Turkish Government, I said that I would not give up Schumla or Batoum yet; but I was at the same time careful to warn him against expecting any military aid from Her Majesty's Government.

No. 26 A.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 1, 1878.

TO-DAY'S "Gazette" contains a prohibition of the export of torpedoes, and Vice-Consul at Fiume telegraphs that permission already granted to Germany for exportation of 50 has been withdrawn.

No. 26 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878, 10·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AGREED with German Ambassador to-day that we shall express our willingness to Prince Bismarck to accept the following terms, which are chiefly of his suggestion, if he should think fit to forward them to St. Petersburgh:—

"Five days after the army has left Constantinople, and when it has retired behind Adrianople line, English fleet will return to Besika.

"On notice of a wish to return English fleet returns to Gallipoli immediately, and resumes its position in Bosphorus four days after notice given."

Schouvaloff does not think negotiations will come to anything; nor do I.

No. 27.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 553. Secret.)

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that a proposal has now been made to Her Majesty's Government for the withdrawal of the British fleet to Besika Bay and of the Russian army to Adrianople, on the conditon that on notice being given from either side, Her Majesty's fleet shall return to Gallipoli, but shall allow four days from the date of such notice to elapse before entering the Sea of Marmora.

The object of this movement is of a purely political nature, to relieve His Majesty the Sultan from the presence, in his immediate neighbourhood, of the Russian army, which, without some such plan, may remain indefinitely.

I should, however, be glad if your Excellency would inform me whether, in the opinion of Sir C. Dickson and Admiral Hornby, Her Majesty's Government would sacrifice any material military advantage by the arrangement as now proposed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 28.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 556.)

Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.

Sir,

MUSURUS PASHA having asked me what I would do with respect to Shumla and Batoum if I were in the place of the Turkish Government, I replied, if I were an

adviser of the Sultan, I would adhere to that which seemed the most reasonable interpretation of the Treaty of San Stefano, and would not for the present give up Shumla or Batoum; but I was, at the same time, careful to warn him against expecting any military aid from Her Majesty's Government in case of a collision produced by such refusal, as Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to declare war upon this particular point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 1, 1878.*

I DISCUSSED to-day with Count Münster the question of the mutual withdrawal of the forces, and it was agreed between us that Her Majesty's Government should express to Prince Bismarck their willingness to accept the following terms, if his Highness should think fit to forward them to St. Petersburgh:—

Five days after the Russian army shall have left Constantinople, and when it shall have retired behind the Adrianople lines, the English fleet shall return to Besika Bay. On notice of a wish to return, the English fleet shall return immediately to Gallipoli, and resume its position in the Bosphorus four days after notice given.

These terms were chiefly suggested by Count Münster.

Count Schouvaloff is not sanguine as to the success of these negotiations, and I think there is ground for his apprehensions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 30.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April 13, 1878.*

YESTERDAY, Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha called again on me, but this time accompanied by his brother, Osman Pasha, and their secretary, who is also an influential Bey in the Lazistan.

They having inquired whether I had reported Ali Pasha's former conversation with me, I translated to them, in order to avoid all misunderstanding, my despatch to your Lordship No. 38 of the 1st instant.

They confirmed its contents, and stated that Dervish Pasha had induced the Laz volunteers to go back to their homes, assuring them that there was no intention on the part of the Porte to give up Batoum. They returned the needle-guns which had been handed to them by the Government, but kept their own arms, for which, however, they have hardly any munitions.

Ali Pasha informed me that the report contained in my telegram of the 1st instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador, that twelve Turkish battalions were about to be embarked for Constantinople, was premature. This information had been communicated to me by Ali Pasha himself, and confirmed by the Governor-General of Trebizond, with the exception of the Zeibecks and other foreign volunteers, no troops have been removed from Batoum. But the regulars, who still hold the positions in the front, being daily concentrated in the town, Ali Pasha and party fear that its evacuation by the Turks may take place in a not very remote period.

They stated at first that the inhabitants of the district of Batoum, in order to avoid annexation, had devised the scheme of paying their proportion of the war indemnity exacted by Russia. But as they considered themselves that this was not practicable, Ali Pasha and party hinted to me that if they had only the moral support of Great Britain, they could, for the present, with no other troops but the Laz volunteers, hold the place against the Russian forces round it, and that at a later period the presence of two or three British vessels-of-war, and assistance in war material, &c., would render Batoum impregnable.

They added, that if the Lazistan is to be severed from Turkey, its inhabitants are willing to be placed under the protection of Great Britain, but that Russia is the last Power whose rule they will consent to accept, and that they will do all that it is earthly possible to do, to prevent being annexed to her.

As they begged me to convey, confidentially, to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, and to that of the Ambassador at Constantinople, their present communication, I hastened to explain to them that it was my duty to comply with their request, but that I wished them to understand clearly that my doing so should not be constructed by them as an encouragement on my part, or awake in them hopes of the slightest description.

They inquired whether they might expect an answer to their communications through me; and before withdrawing, protested of their devotion to Great Britain, which alone, they said, could save their country from annexation to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 31.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April 13, 1878.*

THE populations of the Lazistan are not the only ones which foresee with dread the annexation of Batoum to Russia; those of the rest of this province, whether Christians or Mussulmans, especially the inhabitants of the towns of Trebizond and Erzeroum, are also in the greatest anxiety on the subject.

The former are moved by political motives, the second by commercial interest.

To the latter the cession of Bayazid, taking it for granted that Erzeroum is to revert to Turkey, is of as great moment as that of Batoum.

If one, or still worse, both these places were given up, all the routes to Persia being in the hands of Russia, Trebizond and Erzeroum, which owe their existence to the transit trade, would be utterly ruined.

If the material welfare of the populations were to be taken into account, the annexation of the towns of Trebizond and Erzeroum to Russia should follow that of Batoum and Bayazid.

While in the one case Russia would strive to divert to her advantage the present trade through Trebizond and Erzeroum to Persia, by completing the existing route, or opening new ones, and throwing obstacles in the way of the transit through these towns, she would in the other case have on the contrary an interest to uphold their commercial importance.

Although the Christians, and of course the Mussulmans in the province of Trebizond, are very adverse to Russian rule, all would prefer, as a last resource, this alternative to that of continuing to belong to Turkey, after Batoum and Bayazid are severed from her.

They consider, however, that the cession of the former would be more detrimental to the trade of Trebizond than that of the latter, although it should be rather supposed that Bayazid in the hands of Russia might present an insuperable barrier, while Batoum could only become for a certain time a competing commercial town.

British commercial interests will not be much affected at first, even by the annexation of both these places. It is difficult to eradicate at once long-standing commercial habits. Manchester goods will continue to go to Persia for some time.

But the very important fact must not be overlooked that it has been at all times the cherished object of Russia to supersede British by Russian manufactures.

An attempt in this direction was made so far back as 1831. Onerous duties were imposed on foreign produce. The attempt failed, owing to the possibility of transmitting goods through Turkish territory.

If that territory is now annexed to Russia, British trade with Persia remains at the entire discretion of the former Power. Of course Russia, which has already so far become a manufacturing country as to compete advantageously (owing to protectionist dues), in the Caucasus with British cotton goods, will not sacrifice her own interests to promote those of Great Britain. Persia is at her door, and presents an important field for consumption.

To encourage Russian industry heavy duties will be imposed again on foreign transit.

Fettered by this measure, British manufacturers will be in the impossibility to compete with Russian producers, and in a period not much remote, the present important British trade with Persia will pass entirely in the hands of Russia.

In a commercial point of view, the cession of Bayazid to Russia would have more immediate detrimental consequences to British interests than that of Batoum.

The existence of a comparatively advantageous route uncontrolled by Russia would render useless, as it was the case in 1831, all efforts to compete with cotton manufactures from Great Britain.

This end can only be attained by protectionist measures, and the latter cannot attain their full development so long as there is an easy inlet to Persia through Turkish territory.

However, the possession by Russia of Batoum only will also in the long run render worthless the Erzeroum-Bayazid road, unless it is so improved and kept in such repair as to enable merchants to continue to send their goods to Persia through it.

The great drawback to the prosperity of the Tiflis route has been the want of a port on the Black Sea, a deficiency which will be made good by the possession of Batoum.

As it is difficult to believe that the Turks, if left to themselves, will be able to manage better in the future than they have done in the past the highway to Persia, the chances are that it will little by little be abandoned by the caravans, and when this takes place British interests will be as much compromised as they would be at present by the cession to Russia of Bayazid and of Batoum.

Without speaking of the political importance which communications with Persia through Turkey may have for Great Britain, her commercial interests alone require that both Bayazid and Batoum should continue to belong to Turkey.

The political and commercial interests of the Christian and Mussulman populations are identical in this respect to those of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 32.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 43. Political.)
Trebizond, April 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN last week the inhabitants of the Lazistan saw in the papers that their country had been given over to Russia by the Treaty of San Stephano, they sent a telegram to the Porte protesting against the cession and stating that, if needed, they would submit their case to the decision of Europe.

The Porte answered that it had been compelled to yield to necessity, but that it was trying to avert the calamity.

This assurance does not seem to have satisfied the Lazistantis, who forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople a telegram, which I am assured passed here yesterday, begging for the intervention of Great Britain on their behalf.

It would seem that the telegraph authorities, who had at first refused to transmit the message, wired it some time after in consequence of orders from the Porte.

I have received myself this moment, from Batoum, a telegram signed by twenty-nine of the most influential Beys of the Lazistan, who refer to a telegram sent on the 5th (17th instant), that no doubt to Mr. Layard.

They beg for British intervention to save them from their present distress; they are, they say, ready to fight to the last man, and pray that one or two vessels of war be forwarded to prevent the Russians from carrying out their repeated threats to take possession of Batoum.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of this telegram.

Great excitement prevails amongst all the Mussulmans in this quarter, and all look to Great Britain to extricate them from their distressed position.

I am assured that influential Beys from all the districts given over to Russia (Bayazid included) are congregated at Batoum to devise a plan of resistance if needed; and that, should a struggle begin, they will be supported by the populations of the districts extending so far as Diarbekir.

I must add that for the present no hostility is shown to the Christian populations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Letter addressed by Lazistan Beys to Vice-Consul Billiatti.

Batoum, April $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

(Translation.)

ON the 5th (17th) instant we have begged by telegram to be protected against the evils which will occur in consequence of the annexation of Batoum to Russia.

It is useless to state that Batoum is the most important and formidable port in all Asia. It is easy to understand that if Batoum falls into the hands of Russia it will be converted into a large ship-building yard. By the construction of roads they will have all Asia under their control, there being in the neighbouring mountains important mines of iron, steel, &c., as well as forests and rivers; manufactories will be established at once. In a short time they can build vessels and other engines of war; they will have a local fleet, with which they can easily hold the Black Sea and the Straits.

We all beg that our present telegram be taken into consideration, and ourselves protected.

Let Great Britain save Batoum and the surrounding country from the inhuman hands of the Russians, by preventing them to set their foot in it, and ourselves, our wives and children, will pray for the prosperity of the Queen, and of that of the British nation.

If required we are ready to take up arms, and as the Russians are continually saying that they are going to take possession of Batoum, we beg that one or two vessels of war be sent here.

We beg again to be pitied and protected.

(Follow 29 signatures of Beys.)

No. 33.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 48. Political.)
Canea, Crete, April 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival here, on the 16th instant, of Lieutenant-General Salih Pasha, who has come to take over the command of the Ottoman troops in Crete. Salih Pasha was accompanied by the Brigadier-General Najib Pasha.

His Excellency is generally credited with the intention of putting down the insurrection with a strong hand, and as a first step thereto soldiers were yesterday posted on the road leading to Apokorona, to turn back the country people who daily flock to town to buy provisions. More than a hundred of these famished creatures were so turned back yesterday, and there can be little doubt that when the pinch of hunger is felt more keenly, and the insurgents see their wives and children perishing before their eyes, they will be more disposed to give in their submission.

The day before yesterday a combat was going on between a band of insurgents and the Turkish regular and irregular troops outside the walls of Rethymo. The Consular Agent informed me by telegraph the same evening that several dead and wounded soldiers were being brought into town, and the irritation which the sight caused the Mussulmans produced a corresponding fear among the Christians, who shut their shops and kept within doors. Salih Pasha went down to Rethymo the same afternoon, and his presence there will, I have no doubt, be a guarantee against any excesses being committed on the Christian population.

What I have since heard of the alleged mutilation of Moslems by the insurgents near Rothymo, mentioned in my last despatch, does not bear out the sensational telegram of the Mutessarif there translated. I purpose to visit Rothymo in a day or two in order to clear the matter up on the spot, and I have asked Commander

Woodward, of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," to take me there, it being only a four hours' sail with a fair wind.

From Candia Vice-Consul Colocherinos reports murders, now of Mussulmans, now of Christians, in the surrounding villages. The authorities, he says, are remiss in carrying out the sentences passed on criminals by the Extraordinary Police Tribunal, and the same thing is observable here, where, indeed, the Moslem members are now with difficulty brought to condemn those of their own faith accused of acts of violence. The Mutessarif of Candia confessed to M. Colocherinos that he could not rely on the Moslem police because they remained unpaid, while the corps of Christian gendarmes had been altogether disbanded for the same reason.

I learn from a person well informed of the movements of the blockade-runners, that the "Panhellenion" has already made nine voyages to Crete, and the "Enossis" three, while the visits of sailing craft have been still more frequent. Notwithstanding this the insurgents fire away their cartridges so rapidly, wildly firing at safe distances, that they are not believed to possess a store sufficient to last a fortnight's continuous fighting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S., April 22nd.—With regard to the measure taken by the Albanian zaptiés for the purpose of recovering the wages due to them, as reported in my despatch No. 46, Salih Pasha has consented that a limited number, some twenty or thirty, should leave for their country every week, when their wages will be paid them, or a bond given for payment on their arrival at their homes. This arrangement has been accepted by them.

It would seem that the decision taken by the military authorities to stop the peasantry coming into town to buy themselves victuals had not had the preliminary consent of the Vali, who sent for Nejib Pasha and insisted that no hindrance should be placed in the way of their entry.

The Mutessarif of Rethymo reports by telegraph that in the skirmish mentioned in the body of this despatch as having taken place outside that town, nine soldiers were killed and thirteen wounded.

T. B. S.

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

(No. 421.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1878.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday reached me when Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs was with me, and I communicated substance to him. His Excellency requested me to say that he had instructed Musurus Pasha to ask your Lordship's advice as to whether the Porte should oppose occupation of Batoum by force if the Russians attempt to take it by force, which would be a recommencement of hostilities. It is of course the intention of the Porte, he says, to defer giving up Batoum as long as possible; but if it is attacked is it to be defended? General Todleben has informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Russia would accept Prince Bismarck's proposal for the simultaneous withdrawal of the fleet and army on condition of the surrender of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, and that the lines of Tchataldja be not occupied by either Turks or Russians. If these conditions are accepted by Turkey, he (says?), arrangement for the simultaneous withdrawal will be carried out, and the Congress will then assemble. If not, there will be war. The General's language seemed to indicate that in the event of arrangement not being carried out, he meditated some *coup de main*, probably on Constantinople. Sultan is very anxious to know whether, in your opinion, Russia would, in the face of Europe, venture an attack on Constantinople, and whether, in the event of her doing so, he should defend his capital. It is not certain, according to General Dickson, that the Turks would successfully resist a Russian attack, and if they were defeated great calamities might befall the city.

No. 35.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 458 I reported the departure of Russian naval officers and men for Italy. English papers give names of the four American vessels chartered by Russia in (?). I am trying to obtain precise information regarding their object and destination. They may be intended to disturb our transport of troops from India through the Suez Canal.

No. 36.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2, 1878.*

I HAVE reason to believe that the Russian Government are anxious for direct and confidential negotiations with England for an understanding on the chief points of Treaty previous to Congress. This would not interfere with continuation of mediation of Prince Bismarck for withdrawal of army and fleet. Count Schouvaloff will probably receive instructions in this sense.

It appears to me that there is great anxiety here to avoid war. Chakir Pasha has been proposed here as Turkish Ambassador.

No. 37.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

Bucharest, May 2, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN GILL and Lieutenant Ross state:—All Russian troops north of Adrianople supplied from Roumania. Hundreds of carts pass Giurgevo every day with food and forage. Line of communications frightfully incomplete and ill-organized. The expenses enormous. No fortifications north of Bucharest. In Moldavia and Bessarabia, about 20,000 men. Between Giurgevo and Bucharest, 20,000. Between Danube and Balkan, troops reckoned on good authority 35,000. Troops south of Balkan, about 100,000. Total troops in Europe, out of Russia, not much more than 200,000 men.

No. 38.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 2, 1878.*
(Secret.)

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, on the most trustworthy information obtainable, corroborated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the total of Russian forces in Roumania does not exceed 40,000 men, in the positions mentioned in Colonel Mansfield's telegram of the 12th instant.

No. 39.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2, 4·30 P.M.*)

(No. 32. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 2, 1878, 2·26 P.M.*

FROM reports of the Italian Ambassador at Vienna, Count Corti is under the impression that the alliance between Austria, Russia, and Germany has now been completely re-established, and that, in the event of war between England and Russia, Austria will occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina with the consent of the latter Power.

No. 40.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 2, 1878.*

I LEARN from an authorized source that Greek troops are being withdrawn from some points near the frontiers to prevent supplies of ammunition being clandestinely forwarded by them to insurgents.

Some of the insurgent Chiefs have returned to Athens.

Above sent to Constantinople.

No. 41.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 2, 1878.*

THERE are no vessels under American flag at Syra.

Sent to Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

No. 42.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 559.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 2, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram which has been addressed to me by the Delegates of the Mussulman populations of Roumelia, calling attention to the excesses to which they state they are subjected by the Russians and the Bulgarians; and I request that you will inform those by whom it has been drawn up that I have duly received their communication.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 43.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 560.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 2, 1878.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the War Department have caused the boundaries laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano, as given on the sketch map which was communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff on the 23rd March, to be carefully examined and compared with those laid down in the tracings of the maps of the new boundaries of Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Armenia, which have been forwarded with your Excellency's despatch No. 338 of the 12th March, as those attached to the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano.

It has been pointed out to me that the tracings supplied by your Excellency have been apparently taken from Kiepert's map, and the differences between them and the map communicated by Count Schouvaloff will be found noted in the Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed herewith.

These differences would appear to be slight, and may perhaps have arisen more through inaccuracy on the part of the transcriber than from any intentional difference; the principal discrepancy is that near Salonica, the boundary of New Bulgaria approaching that town within three miles on the tracings sent him by your Excellency, and within five miles on the map furnished by Count Schouvaloff.

As regards the Asiatic boundary, the Russian map is so different from that of Kiepert, the courses of the rivers, the roads, the names of the places so divergent, that it is not possible to say more than that there is a general similarity between the two maps.

I wish to call your Excellency's attention to the points noted in the accompanying Memorandum, and to request that you will favour me with any observations you may have to offer thereon, more especially with reference to the projected boundary near Salonica.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 44.

Sir J. Paunceforte to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 2, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to Colonel Stanley that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome reported by telegraph on the 27th ultimo that a Russian Colonel, who had been recalled to Rome from Naples, had proceeded to Genoa with the object, as it subsequently appeared, of receiving over 5,000 Vetterli rifles, which Sir A. Paget reported yesterday, also by telegraph, had, as he was informed, been duly delivered to the Russian Colonel at Genoa, and had been consigned to a merchant at Alexandria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 45.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 307.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a further report from Dr. Dickson of the sanitary condition of Constantinople and its suburbs, giving a distressing account of the sacrifice of life amongst those who have endeavoured to afford relief to the unfortunate Musulman fugitives now falling victims in great numbers to disease brought about by want of sufficient food and by exposure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Dr. Dickson to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, April 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health in this capital has not improved during the last week. The condition of the refugees has deteriorated, the food and clothing hitherto afforded them has fallen short of their requirements; sickness is increasing amongst them, and the help given them by the Committee which sits at the medical school is insignificant, and the medicines supplied are not adapted to the maladies from which they are suffering.

Dr. Mordtmann, the Sanitary Inspector of Stamboul, has been smitten with petechial typhus. Dr. Ormanian and Dr. Mihail, the Medical Officers of the Pera, Galata, and Beshiklash districts, have also fallen ill with typhus; fourteen sisters of mercy and sixteen medical students are, moreover, laid up with the malady, and seven sisters and two students have died from it—a sad recompense for their charitable zeal and devotion to the cause of humanity.

Dr. Gabrazzi, the Sanitary Inspector of the European shore of the Bosphorus, states that there are 122 sick refugees under his supervision, and twenty-four of these are suffering from typhus. In the refugee hospital, established in the guard-house, between the Therapia Ambassadorial residence and the village of Kiretch-burnú, there are four cases of it, four at Sariyeri, several at Yenikiouy, and the rest distributed between Beshiktash, Fundukli, Galata, Hussin Pashá, and Pera, exclusive of those in the hospitals of the foreign nationalities.

Dr. Steculi, the Sanitary Inspector of the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, declares that the state of the refugees there remains unchanged. Cases of typhus continue to crop up, notwithstanding the separation of the sick from the healthy, and

the removal of some to other localities; thus 500 of them have lately been sent to Ismid, but an order from the Ministry of Police now forbids the departure of any more of them without obtaining its special permission. Dr. Steeculi reckons the actual number of these refugees at 25,000, and their death-rate at 40 to 45 per diem. Several of their medical attendants, many of their assistants, and even some members of the local committees, have fallen victims to their work of charity, and are now lying ill with typhoid. During the past fortnight Dr. Steeculi registered eighty-one deaths from intermittent typhus on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. Small-pox, however, has ceased amongst the refugees, but is showing itself among the indigenous population. At last Tuesday's sitting of the Board of Health, the Austro-Hungarian and French Delegates called on the board to urge the Government to lose no time in sending away the refugees from the capital into the provinces, and, they added, that the International Committee proposed raising the funds for this purpose by a tax levied on the inhabitants of Constantinople, as soon as the question was solved as to the mode of assessing it, because past experience had shown how utterly untrustworthy Turkish officials are in such matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. DICKSON.

No. 46.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 3.*)

[Not for Publication.]

(No. 509. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further Circular addressed by the Porte to its Representatives abroad, which has been communicated to me very confidentially, and which I trust therefore will not be made public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Telegraphic Circular addressed to Turkish Representatives.

Le 17 Avril, 1878.

PAR ma dépêche du 11 je vous ai fait connaître la manière dont le Gouvernement Impérial envisage l'Acte des Préliminaires de Paix signé à San Stefano.

Parmi les adoucissements que nous désirons voir apportés aux conditions de cet acte se présente en première ligne la question des limites de la nouvelle Principauté Bulgare, dont les confins embrassent la plus grande partie de la Turquie d'Europe et s'étendent jusqu'aux portes de la capitale.

L'existence de la Bulgarie, telle qu'elle a été constitué par l'Acte de San Stefano, détruirait dans son principe la domination Ottomane en Europe et créerait un état de choses de nature à troubler à tous moments le repos de l'Orient. L'étendu assigné à cette Principauté a aussi pour effet de scinder en deux parties distinctes les possessions du Sultan en Europe, et d'en rendre l'administration très-difficile, puisqu'il nous serait impossible de communiquer avec les provinces séparées autrement que par la voie de mer. D'ailleurs les habitants Bulgares se trouvent par rapport aux autres races en grande minorité dans la nouvelle Principauté, ce qui constitue une contravention au principe de la majorité des populations, proclamé dans le Protocole des Hautes Conférences de Paix. La question capitale pour nous consiste, dès lors, à limiter la Principauté Bulgare à la partie comprise entre le Danube et les Balkans. Les dangers que nous redoutons seraient ainsi conjurés en partie et les communications par terre entre Constantinople et nos provinces Européennes redeviendraient libres.

A côté de cette question se place celle de l'agrandissement du Monténégro et de la Serbie. L'accroissement de territoire accordé au Monténégro triple l'étendu de cette Principauté, dont on connaît les tendances et les velléités belliqueuses. Par Podgoritza et Antivari il touchera les confins du Monténégro s'étendront jusqu'à la Boyana et à la ville de Scutari, de là des complications et des conflits continuels. Je crois devoir ajouter à cette occasion que la ville de Podgoritza, bien qu'annexée au

Monténégro comme ayant été tombée, à l'instar des autres localités, entre les mains des Monténégrins par le sort des armes, se trouve à l'heure qu'il est occupée par les troupes Ottomanes.

Quant à la Serbie l'agrandissement qu'elle a obtenu, par l'acte de San Stefano, est contraire à l'esprit comme à la lettre des Bases de Paix, qui stipulaient une simple rectification de frontière; le territoire qu'elle acquiert de la sorte mettrait également une barrière à nos communications avec la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine.

Votre Excellence comprendra l'intérêt qui s'attache à la modification des conditions des Préliminaires de Paix concernant les deux Principautés.

Les stipulations relatives à l'indemnité de guerre n'en sont pas moins importantes pour nous. Le montant exigé par la Russie, comparé aux ressources de l'Empire, est en flagrante disproportion. Les charges que nous avons été forcés d'accepter sont au-dessus de nos moyens. En effet, après avoir perdu ses plus belles possessions en Europe, notre malheureux pays va se trouver encore démembré en Asie et sera privé de ce côté aussi d'une grande partie de ses revenues. Il s'agit donc d'obtenir la suppression totale de l'indemnité pécuniaire.

Nous désirerions, en outre, voir apporter une diminution dans les exigences de la Russie et qui concerne la cession de frontières en Asie. Nous tenons particulièrement à sauver Bayazid, boulevard militaire d'Erzeroum.

Tels sont les principaux adoucissements que nous cherchons à obtenir. En vous communiquant les vues du Gouvernement Impérial mon but est de prier votre Excellence de s'en inspirer dans ses conversations avec les Ministres du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, en ayant toutefois soin de donner un caractère essentiellement officieux et confidentiel au langage que vous tiendrez à ce sujet.

No. 47.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 3.*)

(No. 510. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 257 of the 4th instant, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 472 of the 11th instant, your Lordship will find that the offer of the cession of Bosnia to Austria was made by the Sultan through General Klapka in the month of December of last year, as reported by me to Lord Derby* at the time, and that it was refused by the Emperor and Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 48.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 3.*)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Longworth. Your Lordship will observe that the excesses and "atrocities" attributed to the Turkish troops by the "Times" correspondent in a communication to that newspaper are for the most part pure fabrications. We have now the somewhat novel spectacle of "Times" correspondents acting as revolutionary agents, availing themselves of their position to write up the insurrection they have contributed to bring about, and inventing tales of outrages, to which the greatest circulation is given, for the purpose of influencing and misleading public opinion.

Your Lordship is aware of what has occurred in this respect in Thessaly, and I would refer your Lordship to Mr. Freeman's statement in his despatch No. 16 of 18th March, as to the "atrocities" described by the "Times" correspondent at Belgrade as having taken place in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* See my despatch No. 1488 of December 16, 1877.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Arghyrocastro, April 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have visited the district of Delvino, and have gathered the following information relative to the excesses committed there by the irregular Mussulman levies during the early part of last month. On the 24th of last February about 700 insurgents landed from Corfu near Santa Quaranta, and taking possession of the villages Lykorsi, Ghasta, Mailak, and Izoka, invited the people to join them in the insurrection. About 2,800 rifles were given in distribution among the villagers from a surplus of 5,000 brought over with them from Greece.

On the 5th March, Lieutenant-General Ibrahim Pasha arrived from Janina, and mustering a force of 1,200 regulars, 800 irregulars, and 4,000 volunteers, carried by assault the positions of the insurgents, and thoroughly defeated them.

On the same day, the irregulars, as it is their wont after a decisive victory, commenced their acts of depredation, the appalling accounts of which in circulation are greatly exaggerated. To simplify a statement of these excesses, I have carefully drawn the result of my inquiries in the inclosed tabular form. The "Times" weekly edition of March 15, 1878, contains a telegram from Corfu, of which the following are extracts:—

"Turkish irregulars have devastated eight Christian villages in the district of Delvino, killing the male inhabitants that remained, and taking the women prisoners." How far this is true will be seen in the list inclosed.

"It is reported on authority that the dead bodies were burnt immediately, to conceal the number of victims." I could hear of or find no other burnt bodies except those of two insurgents at the village of Lykorsi.

"Turkish regulars have killed over 100 women and children fugitives on the shore. Their corpses are still there." This is a mere fabrication, for no such thing occurred, and the conduct of the regulars has been most exemplary.

Delvino is a kaimakamlik of the Mutessarifflik of Arghyrocastro. The administration of justice is rendered very difficult here by the deficiency of the police and military forces. Consequently, but little of the stolen property has as yet been restored, although the local authorities are doing their best in the matter. It will be seen in the list that the Mahommedans and Christians have suffered almost alike by the proceedings of the irregulars, from the number of chiftliks belonging to Mussulman proprietors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

List of Excesses committed in the District of Delvino.

Name of Village.	Number of Houses Plundered.	Number of Houses Burnt.	Number of Persons Killed.	Number of Persons Wounded.	Remarks.
Kuchuli	15	15			Turkish chiftlik.
Mavr Lazaritas	30	30			Ditto.
Kapesi	30	30			Ditto.
Kurilas	30	30			Ditto.
Monastery "Kroni"	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi Bey	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Monastery "Stomio"	30	30			Ditto.
Kapesi	30	30			Ditto.
Kalivon	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi Pasha	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Monastery "Panteli"	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Monastery "Dhrinopoli"	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi-Skouna	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi-Mavrula	30	30			Ditto.
Monastery "Dhrinopoli"	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi	30	30			Ditto.
Kondi

No. 49.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 513.) *Constantinople, April* 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Imperial Decree, or "Iradé," naming Sadyk Pasha Prime Minister, and a list of the new Turkish Ministers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 20, 1878.

MODIFICATION DU MINISTÈRE.—Son Altesse Sadyk Pacha vient d'être appelé aux hautes fonctions de Premier Ministre et de Président du Conseil des Ministres.

Voici le Hatt Impérial qui a été lu hier à la Sublime Porte avec le cérémonial d'usage par le nouveau Premier Secrétaire du Sultan, Ali Fuad Bey :—

(Traduction Officielle.)

Mon Illustre Vézir Sadyk Pacha,

Des raisons d'un grand intérêt ayant rendu nécessaire le changement du Ministère, nous te confions la présidence du Cabinet, vu tes lumières, ta ligne de conduite, tes grandes qualités politiques et administratives et ton aptitude à agir conformément à la Charte que nous avons octroyée. Nous te chargeons en même temps du Ministère des Travaux Publics, dont l'importance n'a pas besoin d'être démontrée.

Nous confions à Ahmed Moukhtar Bey le poste de Chéikh-ul-Islam.

Nous n'avons d'autre désir que la bonne administration de notre Empire et le bien-être et la prospérité de tous nos sujets. Nous ne saurions donc trop te recommander de travailler sincèrement et de concert avec tes collègues à la réalisation des réformes, dont l'urgence est reconnue par nous, aussi bien que par l'opinion publique.

Que le Très-Haut daigne couronner de succès tes efforts !

Le nouveau Cabinet est ainsi composé :—

Ministre de la Guerre, son Excellence Izzet Pacha, ex-Commandant-en-chef du 5ème Corps d'Armée ;

Ministre de la Marine, son Excellence Ibrahim Pacha, Sénateur ;

Ministre de la Justice, son Excellence Mahmoud Pacha, ex-Membre du Conseil d'Etat ;

Président du Conseil d'Etat, son Excellence Ali Pacha, ex-Gouvernour-Général du Vilayet de Brousse ;

Ministre de l'Instruction Publique, son Excellence Munif Effendi ;

Ministre du Commerce et de l'Agriculture, son Excellence Ohanès Effendi Tchamitch.

Directeur des Contributions Indirectes, son Excellence Zuhdi Effendi, ex-Mustéchar du Ministère des Finances ;

Directeur du Bureau des Référendaires, son Excellence Saïd Effendi, ex-Membre du Conseil d'Etat ;

Ministre de la Liste Civile, son Excellence Saïd Effendi, ex-Président du Conseil de la Liste Civile ;

Ministre de l'Evkaf, son Excellence Halim Effendi, ex-Mustéchar du Ministère de l'Evkaf.

Son Excellence Sufvet Pacha conserve son portefeuille de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ;

Son Excellence Kimil Pacha conserve son portefeuille de Ministre des Finances ;

Son Excellence Ali Fuad Bey, ex-Premier Secrétaire du Conseil d'Etat, a été appelé aux fonctions de Premier Secrétaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan, en remplacement de Son Excellence Lebib Effendi.

La direction du bureau de la correspondence étrangère du Palais a été confiée à son Excellence Munir Bey, qui reste en même temps premier drogman du Divan Impérial.

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 516.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Mr. Reade on the subject of Russian attempts to obtain possession of Shumla and Varna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, April* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have ascertained from the Generals themselves here and at Shumla that the most strenuous efforts have just been made by the Russian Generals Ivanoosky, of Rasgrad, and Zimmermann, of Bazardjik, to obtain possession of both places.

I am informed that the language held by both the Russian officers sent by their commanding officers was very menacing, as they stated that if hostilities ensued from the refusal of the Pashas, the responsibility would lie on them. Both these latter, however, were very firm, saying that they could not give up the places without orders from the Seraskier, that until these orders reached them it was their duty to resist all attacks on their commands, and that they were surprised to receive such demands from military men, who, on the contrary, ought to appreciate their conduct.

Both the Russian officers returned, I am told, very downcast at their utter failure.

The officer sent to Varna, where Ahmed Kaiserly Pasha said that even if he had orders to evacuate he had not the means of taking his troops away, replied that if he would give up the outer forts he might evacuate the town at his leisure, and that General Zimmermann would afford him all the assistance in his power. The old Pasha replied, shaking his head, "Do not let us talk any more on this subject."

Both Pashas fearing, after this, a *coup de main*, gave strict orders to the troops to keep a most sharp look out, and every other necessary step was taken in case of attack.

The greater part of the Russian troops in this vilayet have crossed over into Roumania. An Englishman, just arrived from Rustchuk, tells me that whilst he was there, from two to four battalions were crossing the bridge very hastily, and daily, so much so that at one moment, whilst the bridge was covered with troops crossing, two of the pontoons gave way, and a great confusion was created, during which a number of soldiers were drowned. My informant stated that he was told that the troops, both officers and men, were very dull at the idea of war with England, of which they all talked, and that their tone and spirit has, in consequence, undergone a great change.

I am also informed that at Bazardjik there is now comparatively a small force. On the 16th a number of Russian cavalry passed through Pravady to Kozludja and Bazardjik, they had marched from the other side of the Balkans through Yenikoi, four hours from Pravady.

It is said that many more are daily expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 51.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 517. Very Confidential.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April* 22, 1878.

I FURTHER called Sadyk Pasha's attention to several matters connected with British interests pending at the Porte. He gave me an assurance that they should be immediately attended to. I endeavoured to impress upon him the importance of earning

the good opinion of England by carrying out, promptly and loyally, the engagements of the Turkish Government, and by giving proofs of the desire and intention of the Sultan to rule all classes of his subjects with equal justice, without distinction of race or creed. I reminded him that the misfortunes which had befallen the Turkish Empire were mainly to be attributed to the neglect of the Porte in fulfilling the promises that it had made to Europe with regard to the better government of the Empire. I pointed out to him that the refusal of the Turkish Government to punish as they deserved those who were responsible for the outrages committed upon the Bulgarian population, two years ago, had alienated from Turkey the friendship and sympathy of England. His Highness fully admitted the truth of all that I said, adding, that although at the time when the outrages in Bulgaria to which I had alluded had occurred he was not a member of the Government, he had urged upon it in the strongest manner the necessity of satisfying public opinion in England by punishing the authors of them.

Time will show whether the professions of the new Prime Minister are to be depended upon, and how far his good intentions will be carried out.

No. 52.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 518. Confidential.)
Constantinople, April 22, 1878.

My Lord,

M. ONOU, the well-known first Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, called upon me yesterday. In the course of a conversation, which was, however, of a strictly private nature, he made some remarks not unworthy of attention. I was much struck with his eagerness to persuade me that Russia was so desirous of avoiding a misunderstanding with England that she was prepared to go as far as possible in making modifications in the Treaty of San Stefano to meet the legitimate wishes of Her Majesty's Government. He quite confirmed the impression that I had formed, from trustworthy information that has reached me from several independent sources, of the fear entertained by enlightened and sensible Russians of the consequences of a war with England.

M. Onou spoke with the utmost contempt of the Bulgarians, as, it would appear, most other Russians do who have had practical experience of the Bulgarian population. He observed that they were utterly unfit for self-Government, and that, with all the vigilance exercised by the Russian authorities, it was impossible to restrain them from committing every manner of excess and outrage upon the Mussulmans, and upon those who were not of their own race and creed. If the Russian authority were withdrawn, he was convinced that there would be the most complete anarchy in Bulgaria. He expressed the belief that even a Russian occupation of two years would not be sufficient to establish an administration which could ensure anything like order or tranquillity. The Bulgarians, he said, were excellent field-labourers, but were nothing more, and quite incapable of governing themselves or others.

On the other hand, M. Onou spoke in the highest terms of the Turks, whom he described as by far the best of all the populations inhabiting the European provinces of Turkey. He said that the Russian soldiers were now on the best terms with the Turks, and that the conduct of the Turkish prisoners had produced in Russia a most favourable impression of the Turkish character.

I asked M. Onou if the Turkish fugitives could be allowed to return to their homes. He said that the Russian authorities were very desirous that they should do so, but that it was first necessary to ascertain whether they had any homes to go to, as the Bulgarians had everywhere destroyed their villages, and carried away their property; and whether they could be properly protected from outrages for the future.

M. Onou may no doubt have had an object in speaking to me as he did, but his language about the Turks and Bulgarians is, I am informed, held at the Russian head-quarters, and by Russian officers in general.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 53.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 519.)
Constantinople, April 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram I have received from Vice-Consul Biliotti, with reference to the determination of the Laz population of Batoum not to give up that port to Russia, and to place themselves under the protection of England, and of my reply to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I also inclose translations of two telegrams on this subject which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Government by the inhabitants of Batoum, and of a telegram from Mr. Biliotti in answer to mine of the 22nd instant.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
Trebizond, April 21, 1878.

OSMAN PASHA and the fourteen Laz delegates have just handed me a document signed by them, referring to telegrams sent to your Excellency's Parliament and myself, under date 5th and 6th instant, and to their interview with me yesterday, and declaring that they consider to have placed themselves under British protection. They state that they are decided to do all that is possible to prevent the annexation of their country to Russia, that nothing will deter them from this resolution; that, being under British protection, they will unfurl the British flag, and under it shed their blood and that of their families until their object is attained, and that there being but little time to spare, they beg for an answer to their repeated requests.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 22, 1878.

THE documents referred to in your telegram of yesterday have been received, and have been sent to Her Majesty's Government. You must not hold out any encouragement without direct instructions from England to Laz delegates to enter upon hostilities with Russians, and you must explain to them that I cannot extend British protection to them. When answer is received from Her Majesty's Government, I will communicate it to you.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

Petition addressed to Her Majesty's Government by Inhabitants of Batoum against threatened Annexation by Russia.

(Traduction.)

Télégramme officiel adressé à l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople, et par son canal à la Chambre des Lords, à la Présidence Municipale ("Lord Mayor") et dans les cas que cela est jugé à propos par l'Ambassade, aux Cabinets des Alliés de l'Angleterre.

LES journaux continuent annoncer que Batoum et ses environs, contenant une population Musulmane de 200,000 âmes, est destiné à passer entre les griffes de la Russie.

Cette Puissance, qui toujours prétend faire la guerre au nom de l'humanité et de la protection des Chrétiens, met la main, sous le manteau de l'indemnité de guerre, non-seulement sur des pays qu'elle avait pu conquérir, mais aussi sur ceux dont ses armes n'ont jamais pu venir à bout. Les déclarations de la Russie à cet égard sont

fausse, attendu que son véritable but n'est que d'aggrandir ses domains et l'acquisition du port de Batoum, qui peut être considéré comme étant le point dominant de la côte Asiatique de la Mer Noire ainsi que de l'Anatolie et de l'Asie Mineure. Ceci est d'ailleurs connue à toute la diplomatie Européenne. Par suite du voisinage de notre pays à la Russie toutes les fois que notre Gouvernement a du faire la guerre à cette Puissance nous ne manquâmes point de déployer pour la défense de notre territoire tout le zèle voulu ainsi que de faire tous les sacrifices possibles. Or, il s'ensuit que la Russie nourrit contre nous une vieille et toute spéciale rancune et il est à présumer que si jamais elle pénètre dans notre pays elle ne manquerait pas d'employer avec usure contre nous et contre notre religion et notre nationalité les procédés arbitraires, dont elle traita jadis les Polonais, les habitants du Caucase, nos voisins et ceux de l'Asie Centrale. Par conséquent, ne pouvant consentir d'aucune manière à nous soumettre à la domination Russe, et désirant sauver notre pays de cette calamité et arracher tant d'innocents victimes des griffes de l'oppresseur Russe, nous faisons appel à la justice de l'Angleterre, qui est le recours suprême du monde civilisé et une des grandes Puissances garantes de l'intégrité de la Turquie, en la suppliant de vouloir bien nous protéger et d'empêcher que l'usurpation Russe ait lieu, au détriment de notre tranquillité. Nous attendons avec anxiété une réponse aussi prompte que possible à notre télégramme.

(Suivent 27 signatures.)

Le 7/19 Avril, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

Further Petition of Inhabitants of Batoum against Annexation to Russia.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

PAR notre télégramme du 5 courant, après avoir donné une idée du traitement arbitraire et oppressif qui nous est destiné dans le cas que Batoum et ses environs tomberaient entre les mains de la Russie, nous demandions aide et protection contre ce danger. Il est évident que la Russie, en s'emparant du port de Batoum, qui est la clef de nomination du Continent Oriental et Asiatique, ne manquera pas d'y établir un grand arsenal de pratiquer diverses voies de communications, afin de rendre sa proximité plus grande, et comme le pays abonde en mines de fer et de cuivre, en eaux et en forêts, d'y établir des fabriques, afin d'y construire en très peu de temps des bateaux et des engins de guerre. En pareil cas, sans avoir besoin de faire venir une flotte d'un autre endroit, elle sera maîtresse de la Mer Noire, et elle parviendra à fermer les Détroits. Tout cela étant connu nous espérons qu'on jettera un regard de miséricorde sur notre prière télégraphique, et qu'on nous épargnera les larmes de sang que le passage de Batoum et de ses environs entre les mains de la Russie nous fera verser.

Nous en serons éternellement reconnaissants au peuple et au Gouvernement Anglais, et s'il le faut nous sommes tous prêts à prendre encore les armes. En outre, comme la Russie annonce à chaque instant qu'elle va bientôt arriver, nous suggérons l'opportunité de l'expédition dans nos eaux d'un ou de deux bateaux de guerre, et nous répétons en tout cas notre humble prière pour aide et protection.

(Suivent 27 signatures.)

Le 7/19 Avril, 1878.

Inclosure 5 in No. 53.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, April 23, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to Laz delegates contents of your Excellency's telegrams explaining that British protection cannot be extended to them. They answered that should it be attempted to hand over Batoum to Russia before their request is taken into consideration, they will fight, even unsupported, and that Russia will not take possession of their native land so long as a Laz remains alive to defend it.

No. 54.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 520.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1878.

REPORTS have been spread here, and no doubt transmitted to other places, that the Sultan, jealous of the influence over the army obtained by Ghazi Osman Pasha, had wished to get that General out of the way by sending him to Baghdad, and that he had been with difficulty dissuaded from doing so. I have taken some trouble to ascertain their truth, and I believe that I am justified in stating that they are unfounded. I understand that some days ago the Sultan had been informed that there was reason to fear that the Persians, incited by the Russians, were meditating an attack upon the Pashalic of Baghdad, and were actually making preparation for it. His Majesty observed that if such were the case he should send Osman Pasha to command an army to meet the Persians. This was said in the presence of an Aide-de-camp, who appears to have repeated His Majesty's words inaccurately. The departure of the Shah for Europe has now removed all apprehension from the Sultan's mind of any aggression on the part of Persia. It is probable that the rumours which had reached him about the movements of Persian troops on the Asiatic frontiers of Turkey were either untrue, or greatly exaggerated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 523.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 23, 1878.

I HAVE informed your Lordship, by the telegraph, of the reiterated and peremptory demands of the Grand Duke Nicholas that the Porte should at once evacuate Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, and give those places over to Russia. The Turkish Government has hitherto evaded compliance with them, and has prepared a written answer on the subject in the negative, which it proposes to send to His Imperial Highness, but which has not yet, I believe, been forwarded.

The arguments put forward by the Porte against the Russian demand appear to me to be well founded. It is maintained that there is no provision in the Treaty of San Stefano for the surrender of Shumla and Varna into the hands of the Russians. According to Article VI the definitive frontiers of the Bulgarian Principality will be laid down by a special Russo-Turkish Commission before the evacuation of Roumelia by the Imperial Russian army. Those frontiers have not yet been defined. The Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano is to be submitted to a Congress, and to be followed, according to Article XXIX, by a final and more solemn act.

Consequently, although it is contemplated by the Preliminary Treaty to incl de Shumla and Varna in the new Bulgaria, the Treaty may be modified in that respect. The Principality has not yet been formed, and it is to it, and not to Russia, that those places are to be given up. It is true that Article VIII provides that the army of occupation of Bulgaria may maintain its communication with Russia by Varna and Bourgas; but that Article applies to a state of things which does not yet exist. The Bulgarian Principality has not yet been constituted, and there is no army of occupation such as is contemplated by the Treaty.

Similar arguments apply to the surrender of Batoum. No time is indicated in the Preliminary Treaty for it. By Article XV the evacuation by Russia of the Turkish territory in Asia is to take place within the space of six months delay from the conclusion of the definitive peace. It may consequently be inferred that the evacuation of Batoum is to take place at the same time. I am informed that the Grand Duke Nicholas has made an offer to give up Erzeroum and the territory occupied by Russia by the terms of the armistice beyond the frontiers designated in the Treaty, in return for the surrender of Batoum, and that the Porte gave His Imperial Highness some reason to believe that it would be ready to take the proposal into favourable consideration.

The Porte apprehends that, if it does not speedily yield to the Russian demands, force will be used. According to Consul Reade (see his despatch inclosed in my No. 510 of 22nd instant), a menace to that effect has already been made by the Russian

military authorities as regards Varna and Shumla, and I have reason to believe that the Grand Duke has held out a similar threat with respect to Batoum. The Porte does not appear to be disposed, at the present moment, to give way, and if it remains firm, and the Russians are induced to believe that it is prepared to meet force by force, they may hesitate, in the face of European opinion, to commit an unjustifiable act of war upon Turkey which might lead to a general renewal of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 56.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 525. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 24, 1878.*

THE present feeling of the Mussulman populations of the Turkish Empire, with regard to England, is of so remarkable a character that it deserves, it appears to me, the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government. In my despatch No. 492 of the 15th instant, I informed your Lordship that I am constantly receiving from Mahommedan gentlemen of influence and high position offers to place large numbers of men at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government as soldiers in the event of a war between her and Russia. Petitions and memorials are coming to me from the Mussulman inhabitants of various parts of the Empire, asking for the protection of England. In Egypt, Syria, Bagdad, Asia-Minor, and Lazistan, the same desire is felt that England should either annex those countries, or secure to them for the future, under her immediate supervision, a good, just, and equal Government, such as is enjoyed by Her Majesty's Mussulman subjects in her Indian Empire.

The determination of the Mussulman populations of Constantinople, and of other parts of Turkey, not to permit the Government to abandon what is known as the "English policy," is so strong that if the Sultan were to show any disposition to enter into an alliance, or even into intimate relations, with Russia, he might very probably lose his throne. Fortunately his own views and inclinations are, I have every reason to believe, in conformity with those of his subjects. He has dismissed Raouf Pasha from the Ministry of War, because public opinion, perhaps unjustly, accused him of being "Russian." His conduct towards Lord A. Loftus on his late mission to St. Petersburgh greatly irritated His Majesty, and was, I have reason to believe, one of the causes of his fall, as the Sultan thought that the weakness of character he had shown on that occasion in listening to General Ignatieff might place him completely under Russian influence.

Said Pasha, the late Minister of Marine, who is looked upon as one of the most loyal advocates and supporters of the "English policy," and was known to enjoy the complete confidence of the Sultan, told me that the day after he had been dismissed from office his house was crowded from early morning to night by Mahommedans of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, who were anxious to learn whether the change of Ministry indicated a change of policy on the part of His Majesty and of his Government. He had the greatest difficulty, he said, in persuading them that such was not the case, and that His Majesty had no intention of departing in any way from the policy that he had hitherto pursued. It was not until more than twenty-four hours after the fall of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha and his colleagues, that the Mussulman population of the capital was convinced that this event did not indicate the triumph of Russian influence and the defeat of that of England. Had it proved otherwise the consequences to the Sultan, considering the present temper of the people, might have been serious.

In the event of war between England and Russia, I doubt whether the Sultan could maintain a position of neutrality. I am convinced that he could not ally himself with Russia against England. I have been told by officers of high rank that the Turkish troops would refuse to fight against us, and would probably desert *en masse* rather than do so. I learn, from a fairly trustworthy authority, that a number of Mahommedan gentlemen of Constantinople have sent to consult the Shereef of Mecca, and a Sheikh in one of the Barbary States (I think in Tripoli) who enjoys a great reputation for learning and piety throughout the Mahommedan world, as to the course that the Mahommedan subjects of the Sultan should pursue, in case of a war between England and Russia; whether they would be bound by the Treaty of San Stefano and should

become the allies of Russia, and whether if the Sultan commanded them to fight for Russia they ought to obey him; or whether it would not be their duty to unite with England in opposing the enemy of their faith and country. The nature of the answer they are likely to receive can scarcely be doubted.

This feeling in favour of England, and of the English policy, extends to the functionaries of the Porte, and even to men of the highest rank and influence in the State. Sadyk Pasha, the new Prime Minister, told me that when, on accepting office, he was discussing with the Sultan the policy that he should pursue, old Mehemet Ruchdi Pasha, formerly Grand Vizier and a man of great influence with His Majesty and with the people, observed that "he ought to sleep at the British Embassy and never take a step without consulting the British Ambassador."

There may be some exaggeration in the statements that are made to me as to the feeling towards England that I have described; but they come to me from so many independent sources, and from so many parts of the Empire, that I am convinced that they are well founded. This feeling does not arise solely from the belief that through the help of England, Turkey may recover some of the territories that she has lost by her fatal war with Russia, and that she may be restored to her former position in Europe. This expectation may, no doubt, have something to do with it; but as far as I can judge it mainly arises from the conviction of the Turks, that the government of their country has been radically bad, that the men to whom it had been confided are for the most part incompetent, without patriotism and corrupt, and that if a complete reform in the administration be not speedily carried out the ruin of the Empire must ensue. They believe that this reform, which they all most ardently desire, can be best brought about by England, that she would effect it disinterestedly and in the true interest of Turkey and of the Mussulmans as well as of the Christians, and that she is influenced by no special predilections in favour of any particular race or creed, but that she is prepared to obtain just, impartial and equal government for all. They consequently believe that if England is averse to annexing any portion of the Turkish Empire, the next best thing for her to do would be to make use of her influence to reform and direct the administration, and virtually to take the government into her own hands.

I venture to think that if England were to avail herself of this state of feeling amongst the Mussulman population of the Turkish Empire, and to adopt, if I may be permitted so to express myself, a broad, liberal, and statesmanlike policy as distinguished from one which has for its object the interests and welfare of any particular race or religion, she might do a vast amount of real good, further to an incalculable extent the cause of humanity, and, at the same time, promote the true interests of the British Empire. But in order to effect these results, the fanciful and sentimental theories of nationalities, and the narrow sympathies for particular creeds that have unfortunately misled public opinion, must be put aside. We must not look to the development of an Hellenism without Hellenes, or of a Slavism without Slavs, persuading ourselves that the modern Greek deserves our special support because he traces a fantastic descent from Miltiades and Alexander the Great, or that Bulgarians are Slavs and consequently should be united to them, because they speak a corrupt Slavonian dialect and profess the Russian faith. We must look to the general well-being, prosperity, and good government of all the various populations, whatever may be their origin and creed, that compose the Turkish Empire. Of these populations, certainly the one which has the highest qualities are the Turks, and one or two other Mahommedan races. I do not include amongst them the Kurds, Bedouin Arabs, and such other tribes, who can only be kept down by a strong hand, and whose lawless habits and cruel disposition fully entitle them to claim descent from those who inhabited the same lands in the remotest historic periods. The Turks have been for some centuries in possession of this Empire, their right to it is as good as that of any other conqueror to the lands which he has acquired. Their great qualities have made them a governing race; the vices of their rulers and a bad administrative system, incompatible with modern civilization and with the just requirements of Europe, have undermined their authority, and have brought the Empire well nigh to ruin. But the events of the last few months have proved that the real Turkish people has lost none of its virtues, its sobriety, its honesty, its powers of endurance, its courage, its resignation, and its loyalty. My own experience, especially when directing the administration of relief to a vast number of Turkish fugitives, and that of the numerous English surgeons who have been employed in attending to the sick and wounded Turkish soldiers, have convinced me that, low as the administration of this Empire may have fallen, the materials for a strong and useful Power still exist in Turkey. The

remarkable testimony now borne by M. Onou and other Russians to the character of the Turkish soldier, and to the Turkish population in general (see my Confidential despatch No. 518 of the 22nd instant) goes far to bear out my views. Under a well-organised Government, Turkey could still furnish a splendid army and a formidable navy. Her vast resources could enable her to restore her finances, and to attain to prosperity and wealth. But in order that she may be able to accomplish these things, she should be freed from the incessant attempts of Russia to destroy the authority of the Sultan, and to impede the real progress of the country by her constant provocation of the Christian populations to discontent and insurrection.

Whether under a just and wise Government the Turkish race would be able to acquire the thoughts and habits of modern civilization is a problem yet to be determined. I see no reason why it should not. Its intellectual capacity is certainly, as far as I can judge, at least equal to that of the other races with which it would be brought into immediate competition, and it has certainly higher moral qualities. As soon as the Turks are taught to look upon Christians as their equals, and the progress towards this most desirable end is very marked, they would feel the absolute necessity of maintaining that equality, if not of asserting their superiority, by other means than by the privileges and power of a governing race.

Some persons appear to believe that the creation of a number of small independent, or semi-independent States, out of the ruins of the Turkish Empire, would contribute to the welfare of its Christian populations, and to the permanent peace of Europe. I am not, and never have been of this opinion. On the contrary, it is my conviction that the existence of such States would be a constant source of agitation and disturbance, that their natural jealousies, the ambition of their rulers, and the intrigues of those who would find in them the means of carrying out dangerous political designs, would soon compel some neighbouring Power to step in to put a stop, by annexation, to a state of things which would be dangerous to its own tranquillity and interests. Fresh complications and disturbance of the balance of power would thus arise, and war would become inevitable.

If England were determined to avail herself of the feeling now existing towards her of the Mussulman populations of this country, and to found a policy upon it, I believe that Turkey might still be maintained as a strong Power, a bulwark to Russia, and a support to the true interests of the British Empire. But if Her Majesty's Government were prepared to adopt such a policy, it must be upon a distinct guarantee or understanding that the Sultan and the governing class will accept the conditions which England must impose upon them in return for the support that she may afford to Turkey to deliver her from the ruinous Treaty imposed upon her by Russia. These conditions would be a radical reform of the administration, the perfect equality of treatment of all creeds, the admission of Christians as well as Mahommedans to a full share in the government of the country, the development of its resources, and the setting in order of its finances. I am of opinion that, under actual circumstances, the whole Mahommedan population of the Empire, even including the Ottoman functionaries themselves, would joyfully and eagerly accept these, or any other conditions that England might be disposed to impose upon them if they are to lead to just and good government. The influence of England is, I am persuaded, paramount at the present moment in the East. We might yet avail ourselves of it to promote the happiness and welfare of a large portion of the human race and our own interests at the same time.

I trust your Lordship will forgive me if I have ventured to express my views with too much freedom. The vast importance of the subject could alone justify me in doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 57.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 526. Secret.)
Constantinople, April 23, 1878.

My Lord,

SADYK PASHA told me yesterday, most confidentially, that Count Zichy came to see him immediately after his nomination as Prime Minister on Thursday last, just as his Excellency was about to embark for Odessa on his way to Pesth.

The Austrian Ambassador asked his Highness whether he was prepared to refuse, as his predecessor had done, the request of Austria for the cession to her of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sadyk Pasha replied to Count Zichy that, neither as a Turk nor as a Minister, could he consent to give up two provinces of the Empire to any Power. The Sultan himself could not do it. Such a surrender of Turkish territory required, according to the Constitution, the assent of the Chambers, as well as that of the Great Council of the Nation.

Count Zichy then hinted that circumstances might compel Austria to take possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In such case what, inquired his Excellency, would Turkey do; would she oppose an Austrian occupation by force?

Sadyk Pasha replied by asking Count Zichy whether, in the face of Europe, and after denouncing Russia for despoiling Turkey, Austria would herself seek to deprive her forcibly of so large a portion of territory. To this question Sadyk Pasha said Count Zichy made no reply.

I may mention, with reference to the denial at Vienna that Count Zichy had been instructed to ask for the "cession" of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had only asked for their "occupation" by Austria, that the demand for "occupation," as far as I can learn from the very best sources, was not made. It was for "cession en perpétuité."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 58.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 527. Very Confidential.)
Constantinople, April 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED on the 20th instant your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, instructing me to inform the Sultan that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to come to an arrangement with that of Russia for the simultaneous removal of the British fleet to Besika Bay and the Russian army to Adrianople and Dédé Aghatch, but that Her Majesty's Government could only carry out this project on receiving from His Majesty a formal undertaking to permit the British fleet to re-enter the Dardanelles in case the Russians should return in the vicinity of Constantinople.

I immediately sent Mr. Sandison to communicate the substance of your Lordship's telegram to the Sultan, and to state to His Majesty, for his own information only, that the negotiations in which Her Majesty's Government are engaged were commenced at their instance after the receipt of His Majesty's request on this subject.

I have the honour to inclose copy of Mr. Sandison's report to me of his interview with His Majesty.

On his return from the palace, Mr. Sandison called on the Prime Minister, in pursuance of His Majesty's request, in order to come to an understanding with His Highness on the nature of the undertaking to be given for the re-entry of the British fleet into the Sea of Marmora, as suggested by your Lordship. I inclose his report of his conversation with Sadyk Pasha.

On Monday I spoke to the Prime Minister and to Safvet Pasha on the matter. They said that the Porte was quite willing, not ready, that the undertaking asked for by Her Majesty's Government should be given, but that there was some difficulty as to the form in which this should be done. It was quite natural for the Sultan to enter personally into an engagement with a foreign Embassy or Government, such as your Lordship appeared to require, and the Council of Ministers were discussing the subject. They said that their colleagues wished to ask for some explanation as to the stipulations which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to make with Russia as to the notice to be given in case they should wish the British fleet to re-enter the Sea of Marmora. I convinced them that it was undesirable to ask for any such explanation, and that their best course was to limit without delay the means of enabling Her Majesty's Government to attain so desirable an object as the removal of the Russian forces from the vicinity of the capital. They both agreed with me, saying that, as their colleagues had charged them to put the question to me, they were under the necessity of doing so. They promised me to communicate [illegible] as early, they hoped, be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government, even if not given at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Pera, April 20, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I proceeded to the Imperial Palace yesterday. The Sultan having expressed the wish to see me again, I communicated to His Majesty, as directed by your Excellency, Lord Salisbury's telegram respecting the proposed simultaneous withdrawal of the Russian army to Adrianople and Dédé Aghatch, and of the British fleet to Besika Bay, on condition, as regards the latter, that His Majesty would formally undertake to allow it to re-enter the Sea of Marmora in the event of the Russians returning to the vicinity of Constantinople.

The Sultan, after expressing much satisfaction at the prospect of thus seeing the Russian army removed to a considerable distance from his capital, desired me to state to your Excellency that the required promise would be given by him as a matter of course, but that it will have to be done through the proper channel, which is the Sublime Porte, and that he would therefore recommend you to communicate at once directly or indirectly with the Prime Minister on the subject.

Reverting to yesterday's conversation in regard to the new Russian plan of taking Constantinople with 60,000 men, His Majesty said that he had reason to believe these represented the whole of the Russian forces on this side of the Balkans, whereas he could, at this moment, fully dispose of 140 battalions of regular troops, independently of the Civic Guard and other reserves; these forces being placed under the command of two able generals, as Osman and Fuad Pashas, might, His Majesty considered, be able to defend the capital.

His Majesty then spoke of the Prime Minister by saying (confidentially) that he had received his commands to consider your position as being quite exceptional, and different from that of the other Ambassadors, and to entertain frequent relations with your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Pera, April 21, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions and the wish expressed by the Sultan, I communicated yesterday to the Prime Minister Lord Salisbury's telegram of the 19th instant, leaving out the part intended for communication to His Majesty only.

I informed His Highness of the Sultan's reply as regards the assurance to be given by His Majesty respecting the re-entrance of the British fleet into the Sea of Marmora, mentioning at the same time your Excellency's recommendation that the assurance in question should be given in writing.

His Highness replied that he saw no objection to its being given in that form, and that he would lose no time in communicating with the Sultan upon all the points connected with this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 532.)

Constantinople, April 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from the "Levant Herald" and the "Turquie" relating to the insurrection of the Mussulman populations in Mount Rhodope in consequence of the destruction of their villages by Cossacks and Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of April 25, 1878.

THE MUSSULMAN RISING IN THRACE.—Some circumstantial accounts have reached us of acts of cruelty alleged by the Mussulmans of Thrace against the Bulgarians and which, amongst other similar cases, are said to have led to the rising reported yesterday. It is affirmed that, on the 12th instant, a numerous band of Bulgarians from Mustapha-Pasha and Hasskeui, attacked twelve Mussulman villages in the district of Harmen, set fire to the houses, and killed twenty-three Mussulmans. In the district of Hasskeui, they are said to have burnt forty villages and put fifty-six persons to death. The Mussulman inhabitants of the districts of Tohermen and Hasskeui have sent a special memorial on the subject to the Porte, in which they further allege that these depredations and outrages were attended by circumstances of great atrocity. The inhabitants of the district of Demitoka have also telegraphed to the Porte, under date of the 17th instant, complaining, but in more general terms, of similar acts on the part of the Bulgarians of that caza, who, they say, sack and burn the Turkish villages, kill all the unfortunate Mussulmans who fall into their hands, and do not respect the honour of women. They declare that, with tears in their eyes, they appeal to the commiseration of the Sultan and the Imperial Ottoman Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 25, 1878.

LES nouvelles qui nous parviennent de Roumélie sont navrantes. Dans les provinces de Philippopoli et d'Andrinople la population Musulmane est à la merci des Bulgares, qui commettent toute sorte d'atrocités, tuent les Musulmans et livrent aux flammes leurs villages.

Le 12 du mois courant une bande nombreuse de Bulgares de Monstapha-Pasha et de Haskeuy, a saccagé douze villages Musulmans dans le district de Harmun. Les assaillants ont incendié les maisons, après les avoir complétement pillées, et ont tué vingt-trois Musulmans. Dans le district de Haskeuy une autre bande de Bulgares a détruit par le feu une quarantaine de villages et a tué cinquante-six Musulmans.

Dans le district de Démotika, la situation qui est faite aux Musulmans n'est pas plus supportable. Les Bulgares commettent de nombreuses déprédations. Ils saccagent les villages Turcs, violent les femmes et tuent les habitants qui tombent entre leurs mains.

Ces faits, dont nous garantissons l'exactitude, se passent de commentaires; ils soulèvent la conscience publique et expliquent la révolte des Musulmans du Rhodope.

No. 60.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 534.)

Constantinople, April 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a telegram which has reached me from Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti, stating that an address had been recently sent to the Prime Minister, signed by the leading inhabitants of Trebizond, protesting against the cession of Batoum to Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, April 25, 1878, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AN address signed by 943 leading Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of Trebizond has just been forwarded through Governor-General to Turkish Prime Minister, showing that the commercial and political interests of Batoum are so blended

with those of Trebizond that the cession of the former will be the ruin of the latter, and that its inhabitants cannot remain indifferent to the efforts of the Laz to prevent annexation to Russia. Similar addresses are said to be signed in other quarters.

No. 61.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 535.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, respecting certain military and naval precautionary measures which have been taken by the authorities at Prevesa, and the movements of troops in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, April 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that several torpedoes have been sunk in the entrance of this gulf, as well as between Punta and the Citadel, and I am told that they all communicate with the land by means of a wire.

I also hear from good authority that the two buoys which marked the entrance to this gulf have, under the pretext of their having been shifted by the sea, been brought into our harbour by the Captain of the Port, and that two torpedoes have been sunk in their places.

A short time after the departure of the troops for Janina, as reported to your Excellency last week, about a company of infantry was brought here from Salahora, but the same number of men have been dispatched since to Gastouniza, a port not very far from Preva.

From M. Kyprioti I hear that, in accordance with orders from the capital, all the criminals who have lately been released at Janina have been sent to their homes, and that on the 15th instant the French Consul had left for Santi Quaranta in order to investigate and report on the state of affairs in that quarter.

A reduction of 35 per cent. in the police force has been effected, and most of the Bashi-Bazouks have returned to their homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 62.

Mr. Swadkin to Mr. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 3.)

(Private and Confidential.) *Pera, April 29, 1878.*

(Extract.)

HIS Majesty then dwelt upon the general condition of the Russian army near Constantinople, which he describes as suffering severely from the prevalence of typhoid fever and other diseases, which were likely to make greater havoc in its ranks later in the season. This, however, was a matter which concerned the Russians, but His Majesty seemed to express anxiety, arising from trustworthy information communicated to him, in reference to a new Russian plan, according to which an army of 60,000 men would make itself master of Constantinople, and all its strategical positions, in the course of four hours. Whilst the Russians were carrying these plans and constructing a military road from San Stefano towards Kaghaz Iskeli and Chatalji (against which His Majesty had remonstrated), the Turkish War office had under [illegible] measures in disseminating certain works of defence in the direction of Tchatalja, the occupation of [illegible] possession of [illegible] Russian movements [illegible] the opportunity of submitting to His Majesty the importance of [illegible] which

according to the general belief was, I said, of greater strategical importance to the Russians as giving them the full command of the entrance into the Black Sea. His Majesty replied that he fully recognized the importance of this point, which, however, he felt confident would be efficaciously protected against Russian attack, provided, he said, the Turkish military authorities received timely information of any Russian movement in that direction.

No. 63.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 395. Confidential.) *Paris, May 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me yesterday of the reports that have appeared in the newspapers that an understanding is about to be come to by the countries bordering on the Baltic, in virtue of which that sea would be declared a *mare clausum*, from which the ships of war of all other countries would be excluded.

M. Waddington said that in his opinion the matter deserved serious consideration. He had, indeed, he told me, received information which led him to believe that the Emperor of Germany was favourable to the idea of closing the Baltic. His Imperial Majesty had in particular, he had reason to believe, expressed strong indignation at the possibility of the Russian commercial towns on the Baltic being exposed to attack by the British fleet, in case of war between Russia and England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 64.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 3.)

Admiralty, May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed extract from telegram from the Naval Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, dated 2nd May.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Ismid, May 2, 1878, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE returned with squadron.

* * * * * * *

Russians are reported to have landed 2,000 coils of electric wire, numerous sinkers, and other torpedo fittings at San Stefano, last week.

* * * * * * *

I proceed to-night to Therapia to communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador at his request.

No. 65.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Mai, 1878.*

(Confidentielle.)

Le Général Todleben, qui complète le Grand Duc Nicolas dans le commandement de l'armée Russe, vient d'arriver ici. Dans notre première entrevue, il nous a déclaré

qu'il était chargé d'annoncer à la Sublime Porte que la proposition du Prince Bismarck au sujet de la retraite simultanée de la flotte Anglaise et des troupes Russes sera acceptée par l'Empereur, si le Gouvernement Ottoman s'engageait à évacuer dans le plus bref délai possible les places de Choumla, de Varna, et de Batoum. Il a ajouté que les fortifications de Tchataldja resteront zone neutre, et ne seront occupées ni par les Russes ni par les troupes Ottomanes. Notre hésitation d'évacuer les places de Choumla, de Varna, et de Batoum donne lieu à une suspicion de la part des Russes à l'égard de notre attitude; et, d'après ce qu'il nous revient, si un refus catégorique leur est opposé pour l'évacuation immédiate de ces forteresses une action violente est à craindre sur quelques points de l'Empire de la part des Russes. Veuillez entretenir confidentiellement Lord Salisbury de ce qui précède, et nous faire connaître immédiatement la voie que sa Seigneurie voudra bien nous conseiller de suivre dans cette circonstance.

No. 66.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 105.) *St. Petersburgh, May 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

I INQUIRED yesterday from M. de Giers, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, whether, as generally reported, an ultimatum had been addressed to the Porte for immediate surrender of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum.

His Excellency answered evasively that frequent applications, but not in the form of an ultimatum, had been made to the Porte for execution of Treaty in regard to those places.

I observed to him that these demands for carrying out a Treaty the stipulations of which had not been fulfilled by Russia, and whilst the Treaty itself was not recognized by Europe, were not calculated to produce a favourable impression, and in my opinion, if persisted in, would render a Congress useless.

No. 67.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

Athens, May 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 1st and 2nd instant, two of the persons mentioned were overheard speaking Russian at Syra.

There are no vessels under American flag at Corfu.

Sent to Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

No. 68.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

Athens, May 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that he intended telegraphing to Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London to beg your Lordship to take the affairs of Crete into consideration, with a view to obtain a cessation of hostilities through interposition of Her Majesty's Government. He said that in taking this step he was actuated by feelings of humanity and interests of Christian and Mussulman populations.

He said that he thought the insurrection in Thessaly was at an end.

No. 69.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3, 5 P.M.)

(No. 33.) *Rome, May 3, 1878, 1·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL at Genoa telegraphs as follows, dated yesterday:—

"Cannot discover that rifles have been already shipped here, but rifles are positively daily expected from Geneva by Genoese merchants, and of these I shall have private information. 'Movimento' newspaper to-day gives names of the American vessels said to be chartered by Russia for Egypt, but no such vessels known to American Consul. More to-morrow."

Sent to Constantinople, Athens, and Egypt.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 422.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 30th ultimo, I am assured, on good authority, the Treaty of San Stefano, as submitted to the Turkish Plenipotentiary, contained no clause stipulating the cession of Crete to Greece. Whether the draft, as originally prepared by General Ignatieff, was first submitted to Prince Bismarck, and contained such a clause, is not known here.

No. 71.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

Washington, May 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

CREW of the "Pomerania," recently arrived at New York, state that the steamer "Hammonia" is being fitted out at Hamburgh for the same purpose as the "Cimbria," and that the "Westphalia" and "Thuringia," also there, are supposed to have been bought or chartered by the Russian Government.

I learn on good authority that the Russian Government is preparing to establish a naval station at or near the Gulf of Chiriqui, near Isthmus of Panama.

No. 72.

Consul Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

Larissa, May 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL MERLIN and I returned here last night, after having had, on the 1st instant, a satisfactory interview with Chiefs in Agraphi Mountains. Have telegraphed full details to Mr. Layard. Hostilities entirely ceased for last eleven days, and there is every prospect that they will not be renewed, as a conciliatory disposition is manifested on both sides.

No. 73.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

Belgrade, May 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of 1st May, it may be asserted there is not a single Russian soldier in Servia: all the lines occupied by Servia under the armistice continue in the exclusive possession of the native army, in accordance with particulars sent in my despatch No. 30, dated 23rd February. Portion of troops are home on leave, but may be recalled if Russia should have occasion for co-operation, such as occupation of certain positions by Servians.

Should I succeed in obtaining information about Russian forces elsewhere, I shall do my best to send it.

No. 74.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 3, 1878.*

CAPTAIN GILL and Lieutenant Ross state: "Orders were given about six weeks ago to two Divisions—about 20,000 men (probably 12th Corps)—to move by rail to Jassy, from Rustchuk through Bucharest. These orders were subsequently cancelled, but within the last two days they have been renewed. Reported movement of about 8,000 along the south of the Danube towards Rustchuk."

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Sir A. Paget, dated the 28th ultimo:—

"No. 29. With reference to my telegram No. 27, I hear to-day that object of Russian Colonel going to Genoa is to receive 5,000 Vetdeli rifles, to be supplied by Swiss Major."

You should have these arms and officers watched at Alexandria and Suez.

No. 76.

Lord Tenterden to Sir L. Mallet.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Gathorne Hardy, a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* containing information which, it is stated, has been given by General Scobeleff to the correspondent of an English newspaper, respecting a Russian expedition which is said to be contemplated against Peshawur.

I am, at the same time, to point out the improbability that General Scobeleff would have made an authentic communication of this character to the correspondent of a newspaper, and that Lord Salisbury is of opinion that much importance should not, therefore, be attached to it; and I am specially to request that, in any communication to the Viceroy of India on the subject, his Excellency's attention may be called to the source whence the report originates.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 77.

Vice-Consul Wylde to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord, *Jeddah, April 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the present state of the Hedjaz, and the precarious state of Turkish authority throughout the country. The very slight hold that the Turks have always held over the country is more felt than ever. This is owing partly to the unsatisfactory ending of the late war, stagnation in commercial business, and the quarantine lately imposed, which has entirely prevented trade being carried on with this port.

At Rabeck, between here and Yenbo, to the north, the soldiers have deserted and have gone to the interior, taking with them their arms. The different Bedouin tribes have not had their subsidies paid for many months, and the roads, with the exception of between here and Mecca, are unsafe, the Bedouins levying black mail on everything that passes.

* No. 417, April 30.

The soldiers stationed here and throughout the Hedjaz are living on barley, wheat having given out some time ago, and the stocks, both of Government grain and that of the merchants, are entirely finished. Rice is nearly exhausted, and prices have risen nearly 100 per cent. The Custom-house revenue has been a mere bagatelle since January last, and, on account of this, the officials have received no pay whatever. His Highness the High Sheriff of Mecca has not been paid, nor have his allowances been given for some time. It is also rumoured here, the truth of it, however, is not known, that the Sultan intends stopping the allowances both of money and grain to the Hedjaz, both from Constantinople and Syria, that is to say, ignoring his position of religious servant of the Hedjaz. The rumour has found its way to the Arabic newspapers, and is being discussed in the Bazaars. My authority, however, was before this news was published, and there is no doubt that it is contemplated at Constantinople to use the revenues left to the Hedjaz by holy people for other purposes. If this turns out to be the case the Sultan loses his title as servant of the Hedjaz.

I have no reason to believe that any immediate rupture will take place, but there can be no doubt that the beginning of the end of Turkish rule here is fast approaching. There is no force to hold the country, nor do I consider that the Turks will make any resistance, but come to an amicable arrangement with his Highness the High Sheriff with regard to the Government of the country.

The crisis here has commenced most rapidly, and as long as the Sublime Porte could pay for their authority the Arabs were willing to allow matters to continue; cut off, however, now from all supplies and money from outside sources, they see that religion has to serve military purposes, being utterly indifferent to this war in every way, they now look to the direct descendants of their holy family for redress.

Commander Fowlett, of Her Majesty's ship "Wild Swan," has been informed of the feeling in the country, and will most likely address his superiors on the subject.

There is no cause for apprehension of any outrage being committed on the Christians here, the Arabs being now on the most friendly terms with foreigners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. WYLDE.

No. 78.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 141. Political. Secret.)

My Lord, *Cairo, April 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's cypher telegrams of the 23rd and 24th instant, respecting the movements of a party of Russian engineer officers who had left Naples for Egypt under feigned names and with German and American passports, with the intention of proceeding through Egypt and re-entering Russia by way of Persia.

I have taken every precaution to have the movements of these officers strictly watched on their arrival here, and I will not fail to report to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, Rome, and Athens, anything I may discover respecting them.

I am informed that no persons answering to the description given arrived by the Brindisi mail which reached Alexandria yesterday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

P.S.—I have thought it well to warn the Khedive and M. de Lesseps privately to have a strict watch kept upon the Suez Canal at this moment, and they have promised me to do so. M. de Lesseps suggested to me that in the event of complications with Russia, it would be well for us to have a guard-ship at Suez as well as at Port Said.

C. V.

No. 79.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 148. Political. Confidential.)

Cairo, April 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to report to your Lordship, for what it is worth, what has been said to me more than once lately by Cherif Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose family connections and high position give his opinions some weight and value as those of a high-born and generally well-informed Turk.

He affirms that, in the event of hostilities between England and Russia, Her Majesty's Government could count upon the support of the whole Mahommedan population of European and Asiatic Turkey, and that if even the Sultan and the Porte were to wish to remain neutral, they would be swept away by the current of popular feeling, which would be entirely on the side of England.

He always expresses a hope that so good an opportunity will not be lost "pour taper fortement sur la Russie."

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 80.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 271.)

St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith extracts in translation from the Helsingfors papers which I have received from Mr. Campbell on the subject of the return of the Finnish Battalion of Guards, the formation of Finnish militia on the Swedish Indelta system, of the naval and military coast preparations, and of the proposed privateering schemes which find favour amongst certain circles in Russia, but which are treated with derision by the Finnish newspapers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Newspaper Extracts.

From "Helsingfors Nufoustadsbladet," April 24, 1878.

Return of the Finnish Guards.

THE Indelta Military (Militia) will in all probability again be organized in the country, and that immediately. Preparations are at least being made, and the recall of the Finnish Guards stands doubtless in connection therewith. It is rumoured that nine sharpshooting battalions will be organized on the same principle as heretofore with all despatch, so as to be available during the now expected war.

The Landwehr question may thus be looked upon as solved for some time to come.

From "Helsingfors Dagblad," April 26, 1878.

Return of the Finnish Guards.

Orders have arrived here for preparations to be made for the transportation of the battalion from St. Petersburgh to Helsingfors on the 8th May. The battalion will arrive in St. Petersburgh on the previous day, but as it is more than likely that the troops will be reviewed by the Emperor, and also have to change their clothing, it is possible they may not reach Helsingfors until a few days later than above stated.

From "Helsingfors Dagblad," April 26, 1878.

Defence of Finland.

One of the chief flag-officers of the Russian fleet, Vice-Admiral Butakoff, has been appointed to the command of the defence of Sweaborg both by sea and land. Admiral Butakoff has for many years commanded the Russian iron-clad squadron. One can draw the conclusion from this appointment that an important part of the Russian iron-clad fleet, in the event of war, will be stationed at Helsingfors. It is therefore supposed that the destination of the detachments of the Russian fleet, referred to in the 'Cronstad Budbärn' as about to be sent to various ports in Finland, will be Wiborg and Abo.

No definite orders as to the Finnish Indelta Militia have as yet come to hand, but are doubtless forthcoming.

From "Helsingfors Dagblad," April 26, 1878.

Precautions have already been taken for the removal of official archives in case of war.

The Förerrings Bank has secured a house at Tammerfors, into which its treasure and valuable papers will be removed.

From "Helsingfors Dagens Nyheter," April 27, 1878.

Privateering is at present creating a great sensation here, although it is believed that all will end in words uttered in the various corporations. Among all the country's fighting cocks it is very unlikely that a single one would take part in an expedition formed to 'bring up' in the open sea even an English fisher-boat, seeing he would have perspectively in view the likelihood of swinging at the yard-arm, from whence he could have an unlimited survey of the privateering operations.

Doubtless, however, his suspension from the yard-arm would cost the lives of one or two amongst us resident Englishmen, &c.

No. 81.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 284.)

Rome, April 20, 1878.

My Lord,

A CONSIDERABLE sensation has been produced in the Italian press and public by an announcement made on the 25th instant in the "Diritto," which passes as the organ of the Ministry, to the effect that the proposal made by Germany for the simultaneous withdrawal of the English fleet and Russian army from the neighbourhood of Constantinople was encountering many difficulties on the part of both England and Russia, and that "the Italian Government is strongly supporting Germany in its work of mediation."

The next day an article appeared in the "Opinione" deprecating the course which it was said the Italian Government was following, as being calculated to compromise the neutrality of Italy in a manner at variance with the interests of the country. That Italy should unite her efforts to those of other Powers in favour of peace would, according to the "Opinione," be quite in accordance with the friendly and conciliatory mission which it behoves Italy to assume, but at the same time, the "Opinione" observes, it would be recollected that if Germany does not succeed in her present efforts, she may possibly assume towards one of the Powers a more decided attitude than that of neutrality, and considering the cordial and intimate relations between Germany and Russia, it is a matter of course that the bad humour of Germany would be vented against England. The "Opinione" therefore inquires whether it would be in accordance with her interests and principles of strict neutrality, that Italy should become a partizan of one of the two Powers. The answer is that it certainly would not. Italy must remain neutral, at all events as long as her two great neighbours France and Austria do so. Only in the case of these two Powers

abandoning their neutrality, it will behove Italy to consider whether she can still maintain her neutrality. "If," it is said, "the policy of Italy can have an influence over the neutral policy of France and Austria, so much the more would a warlike action on their part have an influence on Italy."

The "Riforma," a paper of the Left, representing ideas and principles diametrically opposed to those of the "Opinione," had an article on the 27th equally decided in deploring the reported action of the Italian Government which might possibly be not well received in England. "To the friendship of Germany," says the "Riforma," "we hold greatly as everyone knows, but we are persuaded that at the present moment a policy of expectation, free from any engagement, is that which is best suited for Italy." The "Riforma" also considers that Italy should remain neutral in the event of war breaking out, so long as France and Austria do so.

These articles produced a paragraph in the "Diritto" the following day, stating that its words had been misinterpreted, that the mediation was being carried on exclusively by Germany, and that the Italian Government merely manifested its hopes that the efforts of Germany for maintaining peace might be successful.

As, however, a paragraph appeared at the same time in the "Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" stating that the gravity of the situation would depend upon the answer to the demand addressed by the Italian Government to that of Her Majesty, to set forth their views respecting a settlement which might take the place of the Treaty of San Stefano, the Italian press again attacked the Government, and the consequence has been the insertion of a formal denial in the "Diritto" of the Government being engaged in any such action as that attributed to it.

Of this fact no one, of course, is better aware than your Lordship, and I, therefore, should not have taken any notice of this newspaper controversy, if it had not been, first, to say that Count Corti assured me the other day, not only that he had never entertained any thought of making any representation to Her Majesty's Government on the matters in question, but that he had never received any communication of any sort or kind from the German Government with a view to inviting Italy to take part in any mediation, and that he was, therefore, quite at a loss to account for the reports which had arisen in reference thereto; and secondly, to point out that while the Italian press advocates, no doubt in accordance with the general feeling of the country, the maintenance of the strictest neutrality, it would deprecate and resent nothing so much as any departure from this neutrality at variance with the policy of England. At the same time, the possibility of Italy having eventually to take another course is not kept out of view, viz., in the event of France and Austria taking part in a possible future war between England and Russia, and in this case it is sufficiently indicated what the line of Italy will have to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 82.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 285. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 30, 1878.*

IN a recent interview which I had with Count Corti, his Excellency read me part of a telegram which he had received from Count Robilant, reporting the substance of a conversation which he had had with Count Andrassy, in which the Austrian Chancellor had expressed his lively satisfaction at the cordial relations existing between the Austro-Hungarian and Italian Governments; and, in speaking of the improved confidence which had now been established, paid a graceful tribute of recognition to the services rendered by Count Corti in this respect since he has been at the head of the Italian Foreign Department, making special allusion to his Excellency's recent speech in the Chamber of Deputies.

Count Robilant further reports that Count Andrassy then spoke with reference to the prospects of the meeting of a Congress, respecting which his Excellency said he had still some hopes, though he appeared to think that war was more likely. Count Robilant did not, however, understand from Count Andrassy's expressions that his Excellency meant a war involving Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 83.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 287. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to the information conveyed in my telegram No. 30 of yesterday's date, relative to the Treaty of San Stefano having been communicated to Prince Bismarck prior to its ratification by the Czar, &c., and to other information reported in previous telegrams respecting the proceedings of Russian engineer officers in Italy, I think it may be more satisfactory, with a view to enabling your Lordship to judge better of the value to be attached to such intelligence, that I should give some indication of the source from whence I have derived it.

My immediate informant is an English gentleman of the highest respectability and trustworthiness, a correspondent in Rome of one of the English newspapers; and, while mentioning this, I think it right to state that immediately on receiving the first intelligence respecting the presence in Rome of the Russian officers, and the details as to their intended future movements, he came to acquaint me with it, and did not impart it to his employers till some days afterwards, in order that any measures which Her Majesty's Government might wish to take to watch their proceedings might not be thwarted by publicity.

The person from whom this gentleman derives his information was formerly an officer in the Prussian army, and was employed as a confidential agent abroad by Prince Bismarck. I am not at liberty to mention his name.

He was presented to my informant by Count Usedom, the Prussian Minister at Florence, in 1868, and he was at that time employed, like a good many others, by the Prussian Prime Minister, in influencing the press and collecting information in Italy, &c. He states that he was present during the campaign in France, and was attached to Prince Bismarck's personal staff. He declares that in this capacity he was at Versailles when the Treaty which he states to exist between Russia and Germany, by which Russia agreed to allow *carte blanche* to Germany in the West, on condition of receiving the same liberty of action for herself in the East, was signed on the 17th or 18th February, 1871.

Subsequently to this period, it would seem that he had a serious quarrel with Prince Bismarck, who dismissed him from his service. Hence a feeling of the deepest resentment against the Prince, and a desire, which he does not conceal, of doing everything in his power to endeavour to thwart Prince Bismarck's schemes. He asserts that although dismissed by Prince Bismarck, he has always kept up, and still does so, intimate relations with many of those about his Highness, as well as with other people connected with the German Chancery and diplomacy; and that he has the means of obtaining the most correct and secret information. He is connected with England through his mother, for which reason, amongst others, he states that he has strong English feelings, and has consequently given the information respecting the matters already referred to.

I own that I am not prone to attach much importance to intelligence derived from such sources, but, under present circumstances, I could not feel justified in not communicating to your Lordship what had been told me, particularly as the English correspondent, who is a man of remarkable shrewdness and intelligence, seems to have great trust in what his informant says.

I see, however, by a telegram sent to your Lordship by Mr. Vivian, which he has repeated to me, that neither of the two American ships, the "Shamrock" and "Hawk," stated by the informant to be in Alexandria, are in that port. It remains to be seen whether the other information is more correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 84.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 288.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to the Circular addressed by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, directing the Representatives of the Sultan to explain to the Governments to

which they are accredited that the Sultan, while purposing to observe the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano, nevertheless looks to the good offices of the friendly Powers to obtain some modifications of its provisions, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I inquired recently of Count Corti if he had received any communication from the Turkish Minister on this subject.

His Excellency replied that he had received no communication, but that Turkhan Bey had spoken to him in compliance with instructions which he had received in the above sense, and that he had told Turkhan Bey, as he had always told him, that if the Congress should meet it would be the object of the Italian Government to obtain such modifications in the Treaty of San Stefano as might be favourable to Turkish and European interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 85.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 396. Secret and Most Confidential.)
Paris, May 3, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON said to me this afternoon that he was desirous to speak to me most confidentially of a conversation which had taken place between Count Andrassy and the Marquis de Vogué, the French Ambassador at Vienna.

It appeared, M. Waddington said, to result from this conversation, that Austria had determined to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina almost immediately. What would be the exact pretext did not seem to be quite clear as yet. Probably the necessity of relieving the Austrian Provinces of the burden of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian refugees, and the impossibility of restoring them to their homes without providing for their security, would be the reasons put forward. It would seem that Austria had endeavoured, without success, to prevail upon the Porte either to cede the two Provinces or to agree to their being occupied exclusively by Austria, and it appeared that a proposal was now to be made to the Porte for a joint occupation of them by Austrian and Turkish forces. The impression on M. Waddington's mind was, however, that the Austrian Government had been for some time determined that eventually Bosnia and Herzegovina should be permanently annexed to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

It further appeared to be the intention of Count Andrassy that Albania should be erected into an autonomous principality or province, that Thessaly should be annexed to the Kingdom of Greece, and that all the western part, as far as Salonica, of what is now Turkey in Europe, should form a Customs union with Austria, and in fact become a Zollverein under Austrian control, in which Servia might also be included.

M. Waddington had gathered further that Austria was determined not to allow Montenegro to obtain any sea port, although she might not object to allow some addition of territory to that small Principality on the land side.

M. Waddington was desirous of calling your Lordship's attention to the disadvantages which might be suffered by England and France if a commercial system under the entire control of Austria should be substituted for the moderate tariffs and liberal commercial provisions existing under the Treaties with the Porte.

He added that the impression made upon his mind was that while Austria most strongly objected to the extension of the proposed Bulgaria to the south of the Balkans, she trusted to be able to obtain by negotiation arrangements suitable to her in the western part of the territory assigned by the Treaty of San Stefano to the new principality, and hoped that her objects with regard to the eastern part of that territory might be obtained for her by the British arms, without her incurring herself the risks and burdens of war.

M. Waddington went on to say that Count Andrassy had asked the opinion of the French Government on the proposed occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had stated that Her Majesty's Government had declined to give an opinion on the subject, but had gone so far as to say that the occupation would not directly affect British interests, and would be regarded by Great Britain "sans défiance."

M. Waddington said that before giving an answer himself to Count Andrassy's question he should be extremely glad to know what the exact answer of Her Majesty's Government had been. The evident object of Count Andrassy was to obtain from the French Government an answer sanctioning, or, at least, condoning, the occupation.

As at present advised M. Waddington was not inclined to sanction in any degree the step proposed. He was rather disposed to say that although no immediate interest of France would be affected, he could not but regret that Austria should set the example of modifying the territorial distribution established by European Treaties without waiting for the Congress and submitting the matter to the deliberations of all the Powers parties to those Treaties. If, however, Her Majesty's Government would let him know confidentially what their answer had been he should be strongly inclined to make his own conform to it. Her Majesty's Government might, he begged me to assure your Lordship, rely upon his observing perfect secrecy with regard to any communication they might make to him on the subject.

Reverting to what he had said to me on the 29th of last month, respecting the instructions given to the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, General Leflô, on his departure for his post, M. Waddington said that while abstaining from expressing an opinion on any other part of the Treaty of San Stefano, the General had told the Emperor Alexander himself that France decidedly objected to the extension of the new Bulgaria to any part of the coast of the Ægean.

M. Waddington begged me to submit his request for information as to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to your Lordship without delay, and concluded by saying that while he promised perfect secrecy on his side he was particularly anxious that Her Majesty's Government should, on their part, treat the communication he had requested me to make to them as most strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 86.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Beust, May 4.)

(Private and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 3, 1878.

I COMMUNICATE to your Excellency a telegram from our Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that may interest the British Government:—

"Two Turkish generals leave for Batoum, where there are 10,000 regulars, and it necessary several thousand irregulars.

"The insurrection in Thrace is, according to Consular reports, of great importance.

"The most probable computation of the Russian and Turkish forces facing one another are the following:—

"Russians at Hadems Koui and San Stefano together 55,000, at [Tchorulm] 10,000. In the Black Sea direction there is mostly only cavalry. All together they muster about 75,000.

"Turks at Constantinople, Scutari, and in the camps, about 85,000 infantry, 2,500 cavalry, and 150 field-guns. In all about 70,000 combatants."

No. 87.

Pro-Memoria communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by General Menabrea, May 4.

LE Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie, en date du 17 Avril dernier et par l'entremise de son Agent à Rome, a appelé l'attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie sur les faits suivants:—

(*a.*) Il paraîtrait que d'après des ordres émanés du Quartier-Général de San Stefano, on aurait amassé sur les quais de Toultcha une provision de blocs de pierres destinés à entraver la navigation du Danube.

(*b.*) L'exportation des céréales hors de la Dobrudcha aurait été rigoureusement interdite par les autorités Russes à tous les commerçants étrangers.

(*c.*) Les mêmes autorités auraient établi une taxe de 10 cent. par tonne sur tous les vaisseaux qui entrent et sortent par Toultcha.

(*d.*) Le Pruth, qui en sa qualité d'affluent du Danube doit, en conformité du Traité de Vienne, jouir d'une entière liberté de navigation, aurait été intercepté par des ponts qui, ne s'ouvrant qu'une fois par semaine, ont fait hausser le prix du naulage de 3 à 10 francs.

Les faits susénoncés causant des entraves ou des dangers non seulement au commerce Roumain, mais aussi au commerce Européen intéressé à la libre navigation du Danube, l'Ambassadeur de Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Londres a l'honneur de s'adresser à l'obligeance de son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury en se priant de vouloir bien lui faire savoir si ces faits ont été confirmés par les Agents Britanniques en Roumanie, et dans le cas affirmatif quel serait à ce sujet l'avis du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

35, *Queen's Gate, S.W., le 3 Mai*, 1878.

No. 88.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May 4.*)

Admiralty, May 3, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Commerell, dated Gallipoli, 24th April, forwarding a report of the outrages committed by Russians and Bulgarians near Hazkioi, &c.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 88.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, April 24, 1878.

Sir,

I WAS yesterday shown a telegram from the Kaïmakam of Giumurjina (on the River Karaja), reporting an outrage by Russians and Bulgarians in the district of Hazkioi, and I beg to forward herewith a copy of it for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. I telegraphed this information to you this morning in cypher.

2. This news, which reached me from the Civil Governor of Gallipoli, does not in the least surprise me, as the outrages committed by Cossacks and Bulgarians are, I hear, of constant occurrence.

3. Since the peace has been ratified the Turkish villages on the north shore of the Gulf of Xeros have been frequently burnt, and only on the 16th of this month I observed a Turkish village on fire, and met an unhappy Turk who had made his escape from Malgara, where he stated all sorts of outrages were being committed.

4. Osman Nouri Pasha, who has relieved Zakhit Pasha in command here, gives every promise of doing his work well.

5. I regret to say that there is great sickness amongst the soldiers of this garrison, over 800 being in hospital suffering from typhus, dysentery, and bronchitis, caused by bad water, provisions, and climate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Telegram from the Kaïmakam of Giumurjina (on the River Karaja-Su) to the Civil Governor of Gallipoli.

THE village of Foundoukgo, in the district of Haskoui, has been burnt by the Russians and Bulgarians, and the inhabitants driven out.

Hussein Tchaous, of the village of Foundoukgo, placed himself at the head of 1,000 men, and fought the Russians at Foundoukgo, and was obliged to withdraw to the plain of Konchalikes Yaïlassi. They shortly after again attacked the Russians, and beat them, taking six guns. Hussein Tchaous was wounded, notwithstanding the battle still continues.

Haggi Ismail Aga Dai, of Sultan Yéré, has placed himself at the head of 2,000 refugees, whom he has divided into several bodies to defend the confines of the district of Sultan Yéré.

We learn that the Russians are divided into two corps, and one is marching on Sultan Yéré.

No. 89.

Mr. Atteridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

Temple Union, 31, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 12th March, in reply to a letter addressed by the Temple Union to the Earl of Beaconsfield, and by him referred to the Foreign Office, we were informed by Lord Tenterden, on the part of the Earl of Derby, "that inquiries were being made," with regard to the alleged hanging of Poles by the Russian army in Turkey.

We ask your Lordship to inform us if the report of these inquiries has yet been received, and how soon it will be communicated to the public.

At this anxious moment we have no desire in any way to embarrass Her Majesty's Ministers, but as it has been announced that an inquiry was in progress, we feel assured that there can be no objection to whatever result is arrived at being published as soon as the report is received in England.

If the report disproves the alleged murders said to have been committed by the Russian armies, everyone will rejoice that these Polish exiles have not been cruelly done to death; but if it proves that the allegations are true there will be at least a sad satisfaction in finding that the crime has been brought home to the evil-doers. We have before us evidence that the public is really anxious for information on the subject, and we have received, even from America, letters requesting us to use every means of ascertaining what is the truth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. HILLIARD ATTERIDGE,
Honorary Secretary.

No. 90.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 423.) *Therapia, May 3*, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 1st instant, Admiral Hornby and General Dickson have met here and have given me the following opinion:—

"No material advantages, naval or military, will be sacrificed by the simultaneous withdrawal of the British squadron to Besika Bay, and of the Russian army to Adrinople, under the conditions named in telegram of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, provided that the territory abandoned by Russia is left under the complete control of the Turkish Government, and that the Bosphorus be closed to all men-of-war, except those laid down in the Treaty of 1856. At present it appears to be in the power of the Russians to seize the capital and occupy the European side of the Bosphorus, and the guns of the fleet could not materially interfere with such an occupation, but if the Buyuk Chekmedjie lines were eventually re-occupied by the Turks, the fleet could command two of the main roads by which the Russian troops would advance."

No. 91.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 426.) *Therapia, May 3*, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRIME MINISTER will probably propose to the Sultan that while Varna and Batoum are kept, Shumla should be surrendered to Russia, and his Highness is inclined

to think that General Todleben would accept this compromise for the present, as he attaches great importance to the possession of this place to secure the retreat of the Russian army. On the other hand the 20,000 men now required for the defence of Shumla could be brought to Constantinople, where they would be an important and necessary addition to the army required to hold the capital eventually.

No. 92.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 4, 1878.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY requests me to send following figures:—

"I took leave of Emperor to-day. His Imperial Majesty said that Count Schouvaloff, after interviews with Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, had asked to come to St. Petersburgh, in order to state to Emperor views of Her Majesty's Government in conciliatory spirit, and that he had acceded to request, and trusted that mission would lead to pacific result. In conversation I said that Her Majesty's Government had no wish to humiliate Russia; but that they were, I believe, convinced that only way of putting an end to the disorder of the last twenty years in Europe was a religious maintenance of Treaties."

No. 93.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 122. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 4, 1878.*

THE leaders of the new Hungarian Opposition party have prepared a Memorandum explaining their views. They are irritated at Count Andrassy's subserviency to Prince Bismarck as indicated by the project of annexing Bosnia, but their object is to upset M. Tisza and to get a Hungarian Ministry which will compel Count Andrassy to follow a policy conformable to the wishes and interests of the country.

There is reason to suspect the Government of a desire for dissolving the Hungarian Chamber if they can get the Budget voted, and Count Andrassy would be thus left to follow what policy he pleased without any popular control.

The Opposition wish to bring about an intimate alliance between England and Austria-Hungary on Eastern affairs.

No. 94.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4, 3 P.M.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 4, 1878, 1 P.M.*

COUNT CORTI tells me he has received a telegram from M. Nigra stating that General Ignatieff had said to him:—"As Count Corti knows Lord Salisbury so well, why does he not engage him to make known the views of England as to the settlement of affairs in the East? If his Lordship would do so it would greatly facilitate an understanding with Russia." Count Corti has replied by referring M. Nigra to what passed in the Italian Chamber on the 1st instant, when he said that the Government would continue to observe the strictest reserve; but he added that it seemed to him, that with a little goodwill on both sides all questions might be satisfactorily arranged at a Congress convoked upon the basis of the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, in combination with the Treaty of San Stefano.

No. 95.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sulina, May 4, 1878.*

DO not consider it practicable to make the advances required. Will telegraph again on returning from Sulina to Galatz after consulting my colleagues.

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1878, 3·40 P.M.*

IT will be more convenient to defer for the present sending you any credentials which would indirectly imply a recognition of the Treaty of San Stefano. You can give such verbal explanations on the subject as you think best, and inform the Prince that you have been sent as a person in whom Her Majesty's Government has confidence to represent them in Roumania at this critical moment.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1878, 4·40 P.M.*

INFORMATION has reached the War Office that troops have been and are going to be landed at Bourgas.

I request that you will endeavour to obtain information as to what the Russians are doing there.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1878, 7 P.M.*

MUSURUS PASHA to-day communicated to me telegram from the Porte, asking advice about surrendering Shumla, Varna, and Batoum.

I replied that the English Government never having recognized the Treaty of San Stefano, could not offer the Porte any advice about its interpretation; but when he pressed for my individual opinion, I said it was unchanged; at the same time I let him see that I thought the surrender of Shumla, while the Porte kept Varna and Batoum, would not be a bad compromise.

No. 99.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 570.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1878.*

Sir,

MUSURUS PASHA communicated to me to-day the telegram, of which a copy is inclosed herewith for your Excellency's information,* which he had received from the Porte, asking the advice of Her Majesty's Government as to the course they should pursue with reference to the Russian demand for the immediate evacuation of the fortresses of Shumla, Varna and Batoum.

I stated to his Excellency that as the Treaty of San Stefano had never been recognized by Her Majesty's Government they could not offer to the Porte any advice as to its interpretation, and when he pressed to know my individual opinion I said that it was unchanged since I had spoken with him as to the surrender of Shumla and Batoum on the 1st instant.

At the same time I allowed him to see that I thought that, if the Porte could

* No. 65.

arrange by surrendering Shumla that they should be allowed to retain Varna and Batoum, such a compromise could not be unreasonable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 199.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 271, Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, referring to your telegrams of the 9th and 11th of April, relative to the instructions which Count Corti was understood to have sent to the Chevalier Nigra, to urge Prince Gortchakow to consent to the unreserved discussion in Congress of the entire Treaty of San Stefano, and recording a conversation which your Excellency had with Count Corti on this subject; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Washington, April 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated the 18th instant, addressed to me by Rear-Admiral Gore Jones, Naval Attaché to this Mission, reporting the result of his recent visit to the ship-yards on the Delaware.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Rear-Admiral Jones to Sir E. Thornton.

Sir, *New York, April 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Admiralty, that I have recently been round the iron ship-building yards of the Delaware, to see if there were any vessels constructing that might be utilized as cruizers in case of war.

At Wilmington few sea-going vessels are built, although Messrs. Harlan and Hollinworth have the necessary plant to do so. At present they have only one vessel of small size on the stocks for the Cromwell line, to run between New York and Havannah.

The United States' double-turretted monitor "Amphitrite" is still on the stocks, work being stopped for want of funds.

At Roach's establishment at Chester two fine vessels have recently been launched, in the presence of the President and Cabinet, for the United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Company, the "City of Rio de Janeiro" and the "City of Para." These vessels are constructed and finished in a very superior manner, as the Messrs. Roach and Son lost caste on account of the very indifferent way in which the Pacific mail steamers "City of Pekin" and "City of Tokio" were turned out.

The new vessels are 370 feet over all, 39 feet beam, about 3,600 tons displacement, and draw 21 feet water.

They will carry 700 tons of coal in standing bunkers. The engines are compound, surface condensing, 2,500 indicated horse-power, and with separate engines for working the air and circulating pumps. They have six cylindrical return tubular boilers; working pressure, 90 lbs. The screw is a single four-bladed Hirsep, and they are expected to realize a speed of 12 knots.

They are now being fitted out as passenger ships, with every modern improvement.

There were also two vessels on the stocks—one just laid down, the other a month's work in advance—for the Garrison line, between New York and Savannah. These vessels

will be about 300 feet over all, and somewhat of the same description as the "Saratoga" and "Niagara" of the Havannah line.

The United States' iron-clads, "Miantonomoh," "Puritan," and "Roanoke," are lying here in an unfinished condition, no funds being available; and there is a large iron sectional dock being constructed for the Government Dockyard at Pensacola.

At Cramp's yard, at Philadelphia, I found one very fine vessel, "The State of California," almost ready for launching. Mr. Cramp informed me she was built for Messrs. Goodall, Perkins, and Co., to ply between San Francisco and Portland in Oregon. She is about 313 feet over all, 37 feet beam, 26 feet depth. Compound engines, surface condensers. Can carry 1,000 tons of coal, or enough for two months' steady steaming. She has remarkably fine lines, and is carefully and strongly built. She is guaranteed to steam 13 knots, and is to cost 280,000 dollars.

This vessel would make a very efficient cruizer for preying upon commerce, having speed, strength, and capacity.

She will be ready for sea in six weeks.

I found here a torpedo, somewhat on the Lay principle, which some inventor is trying experiments with. She is worked by carbonic acid gas and electricity.

The product of the yards may therefore be summed up as three large and powerful steam-ships nearly ready for sea, and three smaller vessels on the stocks, for coast service.

With regard to the various reports of a large body of Russian seamen being sent to this country, where they were to find cruisers ready to their hand, I have failed to find any reliable foundation for them.

There seems, however, to be no doubt that Russian agents have been making inquiries as to the possibility of purchasing the Pacific mail steamers "City of Pekin" and "City of Tokio," in case of war; but the bad condition of these vessels is well known. The "City of Pekin," in her first voyage to San Francisco, nearly tumbled to pieces, and had to be refastened at great expense, and neither that vessel nor her consort can be driven more than 10 knots without leaking badly; moreover, they would be very large and expensive vessels for cruizers, having a displacement of over 5,000 tons. (Vide my letter August 1874.)

I should imagine if the Russians wanted these vessels, it would be as transports ready to convey men to the Amoor, or to have the means of removing men and material if they wished to vacate or strengthen any particular position.

As cruizers, their capacity for carrying coals, provisions, and men would be their only strong points, while their lack of speed would subject them to easy capture by our ships.

There are, without doubt, many coasting steam vessels that might be fitted as efficient cruizers or privateers. They are weight-carrying vessels, and could, therefore be fitted with light-rifled guns, and could carry a large quantity of coal and provisions; but few of them would average 10 knots.

I have little doubt that in case of war, if Russian gold is forthcoming, privateering will spring up, although the Government will use all legitimate means to prevent it.

With regard to the movements of Russian officers and men, the Russian Consul, M. Bodisco, assured me the reports were entirely untrue, and that he had not heard a word of any men coming out. He also alluded to the report of Captain Syenetchkine being sent out to purchase transports, and said he had not been here since the exposition, and was not coming.

Admiral Philipson is passing through New York now on his way to the Siberian squadron. I understand orders to the firms that have been supplying munitions of war to the Russians are for the moment rather slack.

The Lay torpedoes, which were ordered some time since, have been made at Cleveland and Buffalo, and are doubtless shipped off as opportunities offer.

During next week I shall visit some of the iron-works about New York to see if there is anything unusual going on.

In conclusion, I think, owing to the instructions you have issued to the Consuls, those officials are all on the alert, and nothing of real importance with regard to ships or men can very well occur without your being made acquainted with it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WM. GORE JONES, *Rear-Admiral, Attached to Legation.*

No. 102.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 109. Confidential.) *Washington, April 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE not failed to warn Her Majesty's Consular Officers at the different ports of the United States to be vigilant with regard to any sales of steamers which may be made to the Russian Government or Russian subjects, or to any other persons for unknown purposes; as yet, however, I have not received any information leading me to suppose that any such sales have been, or are being made. There do not seem to be in this country many vessels available for the services which would be required by the Russian Government in the event of war with England, and those that are so, are generally fully employed. This, however, would not prevent their owners disposing of them, if a good price could be secured, and the Pacific Mail Company is no doubt anxious and endeavouring to sell its vessels. But, in the event of such sales, they would probably be made on condition of being delivered and changing the flag at some port outside of the United States.

There seem, however, to be two steamers which would be available very soon, one, "The State of California," mentioned by Rear-Admiral Gore Jones in his letter of the 18th instant, transmitted in my despatch No. 108 of to-day's date, and another, the "Oregon," which I observe by the newspapers has just arrived at San Francisco from New York, having been built by John Roach and Son for the Oregon Steam-ship Company. I presume that she, as well as the "State of California," is ostensibly intended for a new line between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. I have, however, written to Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco, directing him to make inquiries about this vessel.

Admiral Philippons, a Russian Admiral, arrived at New York on the 15th instant, and started thence for San Francisco, on the 18th instant, with the intention of proceeding to Japan, there to join the Russian squadron in those waters. I have requested Mr. Booker to ascertain what he may do at San Francisco. At New York he seems to have transacted no business.

I have the honour to inclose, with reference to this subject, an article from the "New York World" of the 17th instant, and another from the "New York Times" of the 20th instant, showing that Russia cannot make use of privateers, and that the United States will not allow them to be fitted out in their ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Extract from the "New York Herald" of April 17, 1878.

A MARINE NARRATIVE.—Our excellent, though at times credulous contemporary, the "Herald," has just been beguiled into adopting from an obscure London newspaper, and displaying in its largest type, the tale of a cock and eke of a bull. The tale has reference to a flotilla of privateers, to be fitted out in American ports and manned by Russian sailors, which are to prey upon British commerce, and particularly upon the commerce between Great Britain and our own shores.

"This scheme," we are told, "causes intense delight among the Baltic seamen," as well as much trouble and expense to our esteemed contemporary. We should have expected it to excite a deeper interest among the auxiliary corps of marines than among the seamen. Although the correspondent of the London newspaper has seen "the official list of officers designated by the Grand Duke Constantine to proceed to America," which it was imprudent in the Grand Duke to give him, we seem to see a few preliminary obstacles to the complete success of the scheme, which it will tax the united ingenuities of the Grand Duke, the London paper, and our esteemed contemporary to overcome. Prominent among these is the circumstance that Russia was one of the Powers which assented, at the Paris Conference of 1856, to the proposition that "privateering is and remains abolished." Russia's assent to that proposition means that when the officers selected by the Grand Duke to command privateers shall be caught in command of them, every one that findeth them shall slay them as pirates, with the full consent, previously given, of Russia herself. This would be rather hard upon the officers.

Another difficulty is that the United States by permitting their ports to be used for the fitting out by Russia of vessels which when fitted out will have the legal status of pirates will be guilty of a breach of neutrality for which England will at once call them to account, and which the United States would certainly not commit except in behalf of an ally, after they had declared war against Great Britain—which they have not decided upon doing up to the time of our going to press.

Another impediment to our full belief of this affecting narrative is the circumstance that there are no ships in American ports which any rational creature would think of using for privateering purposes. We have a so-called navy, which we would make a very good bargain by selling at 10 per cent. of what it cost us, but which no potentate fit to be at large would think of buying from us even at that price. And our merchant marine is deficient in the prime requisites of privateers. In the first place, it does not exist to any considerable extent. In the second place, what there is of it is too slow to catch British merchant men, and unfit to fight them when caught. Of course, nobody would think of buying anything but steamers for privateers, and we fear that neither the Fulton ferry-boats nor the Sound steamers could be converted into a fleet in time to serve the purposes of Russia, nor would all the energies of Mr. John Roach avail to drive British commerce from the seas. The correspondent of our esteemed contemporary endeavours to evade this difficulty by hypothecating a rumour "in other quarters" that steamer owners in Europe are arranging to send their spare steamers to America to be bought by the Russians; but we fear even this able and daring hypothesis will not suffice to produce joy in the ship-yards or consternation in the State Department.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Extract from the "New York Times" of April 20, 1878.

WAR AND BRITISH COMMERCE.—It seems to be the belief of a great many Americans that a war between Great Britain and Russia would be disastrous to the maritime interests of the former country. In conversations on the street and in business offices, one is continually hearing remarks which indicate that, in the opinion of the speakers, a war with Russia would drive the commerce of England from the seas as effectually as ours was driven fifteen years ago. The inference naturally drawn from this is, that, as the second maritime nation in the world, we shall come into possession of the trade and revenues of which our rival is dispossessed. If this result followed from the causes stated, every one would have to admit that there was a providential justice in the transfer back to us of the shipping and the trade we had prior to the war of the rebellion. Our loss at that time was clearly England's gain, and the restitution made by the Tribunal at Geneva represented only a very small fraction of the damage done to our commerce by the "Alabama" and her consorts. But that such a forced readjustment will take place is not in the least probable. American merchants put their vessels under the English flag for a variety of reasons. They could get higher rates of freight, a saving could be made in insurance, and the danger of loss by capture was removed. But in the present case, the motive to make a change of this character would be almost wholly wanting, as the liability to loss by capture would be comparatively insignificant.

The Government of the United States, by its acceptance of the Treaty of Washington and its results, and by its action in the troubles between Spain and Cuba, has established for itself a rule of conduct from which it cannot depart. It could no more allow Russian privateers and gun-boats to be built and supplied in its ports for the purpose of preying on the commerce of England than it could permit similar depredations by its own citizens; and the same restrictions would also apply to France, Holland, and other nations of Europe. If Russia is to send out cruizers to destroy the merchant tonnage of England, they will have to come from her own seaports. But if war is declared, the ports on the Black and the Baltic Seas will be hermetically closed, as far as Russian navigation is concerned, and the only available outlets will be the seaports on the Pacific coast of Asiatic Russia. If privateering was now carried on as it used to be during the first years of the present century, a brilliant opportunity would here be offered to the Russians to destroy a great part of the English sailing tonnage engaged in the China and East India trade. Fast-sailing and heavily-armed vessels could be fitted out for a cruize of a year or more, and in the China Sea or the Indian Ocean could make hundreds of prizes. But the use of steam as a motor makes all such efforts impracticable. A Russian man-of-war or privateer would have to regulate her operations, partly by the size of her coal-bunkers, and partly by the opportunities offered to her of obtaining an additional supply of fuel. The "Alabama," "Florida," and "Shenandoah" found English coaling-stations scattered all

over the globe, of which they made free use; but a Russian vessel of a similar character would have none of these advantages at her disposal. Even in neutral ports, such as Batavia, Manilo, or Yokohama, if she were bold enough to venture into them, she would experience considerable difficulty in purchasing coal from the English merchants, who virtually control the coal trade in that part of the world.

It will thus be seen that the field of Russian marine operations would be very much restricted. The English have an immense merchant tonnage which, if it could be reached, might easily be destroyed; but the means that country has of protection, when opposed to a semi-inland country like Russia, seem to be fully equal to the demand. The vessels of the Russian navy, stationed at different points, would probably, during the first few months of a war, do some little damage; but the need of coal, and the information concerning them that could be given by the telegraph cables, would make it impossible for them to continue their operations for any length of time. The necessity of paying war premiums on merchandize shipped in British vessels, together with the uncertainty as to its safe arrival at the port of destination, would, for a while, act as a stimulant upon our American commerce; and if our shipping laws were other than what they are, some faint-hearted merchants might be induced to transfer their vessels to our flag; but, as compared with the commercial transformation that took place in this country in consequence of our war, the temporary depression in the English shipping interest would be hardly noticeable. It would not take six months to remove the causes for it by blockading or destroying the Russian steamers, and then the war-rates charged on British ships would be merely nominal. It will not do for American merchants to cherish false hopes of maritime supremacy to be attained through the sudden downfall of that of Great Britain. Our success, when it comes, will be due to hard work, a reasonable tariff, and improved commercial laws.

No. 103.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 296.)
Rome, May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Italian Parliament, which had adjourned for the Easter recess, resumed its sittings yesterday.

In the Chamber of Deputies, the Marchese Castel Maurigi handed to the President of the Chamber a notice of interrogation which he was desirous of addressing to the President of the Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to the reported mediation of Italy in the Eastern question (see my despatch No. 284 of the 29th ultimo).

M. Cairoli at once rose and said that he considered it desirable that a contradiction to these reports should be given at the earliest moment, and he therefore begged that the question might be put at once, in order that the Minister for Foreign Affairs might explain what is the actual position of affairs.

Marchese Maurigi replied that after the declaration of the President of the Council he thought it superfluous to develope his interrogation, but that, nevertheless, he would be glad to hear the declarations of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Count Corti then addressed the House, and, after saying that he could confirm the statement of the President of the Council, that there was no truth in the reported mediation referred to, he spoke as follows:—

"Nor is there any more foundation for the report which has got about that the Government of the King has addressed a note to the British Government regarding the Eastern question. I have the honour of declaring to the Chamber, in the most explicit manner, that the Royal Government has not addressed to that of Great Britain any communication, either in writing or verbally, on the subject. While negotiations of a most delicate nature are pending with the view of establishing a preliminary agreement which may lead to the Congress, the Government of the King is strongly of opinion that the discussion of all the questions in reference to facts which have recently occurred in the East should be reserved for the above-named meeting. I am therefore able to assure the Chamber that the Government of the King has not departed from that attitude of prudent reserve which is adapted to its present position, and to its intentions for the future. I will add that the sensation produced by the erroneous news in question has demonstrated still more clearly the lively desire of the nation to keep itself free from the complications which might arise in Europe. The Royal Government will not cease to adopt its conduct to this unanimous sentiment."

The incident was then declared closed.

The "Opinione" of this morning considers Count Corti's declaration as quite satisfactory, and says that he has correctly understood and interpreted the feeling of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 104.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 4, 1878.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports that General Todleben has telegraphed not only refusal of Turks to evacuate fortresses, but demand made by them for Russian evacuation of Rustchuk.

No. 105.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 427.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 4, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis writes on 1st instant that twenty-one Mussulman villages in mountains south of Haskoui were burned by the Russians and Bulgarians, and that the cause of bloodshed in this district were the outrages and cruelties committed on women and children, Russian (several groups unintelligible). The rising seems extending, and a person just arrived from Philippopolis states that 800 Russian troops with two guns are supposed to have been taken by the insurgents.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 4, 1878, 9·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consuls Blunt and Merlin, dated yesterday:—

"We returned last night from Caritza after a very satisfactory interview on the 1st instant with the three principal insurgent Chiefs at the village Loutros in the Agrapha Mountains. Although some Chiefs evidently determined to abandon the cause after long discussion and arguments, on receiving communication from me that by acceding to English action Hellenic interests will not be injured, and that English Government will make endeavour eventually to secure to Greece full and favourable hearing at the Congress. Moderate counsels prevailed, and they unanimously agreed to retire their bands to their homes on condition that reasonable delay is given for communication with other unarmed bands in Thessaly and Province of Salonica. They confide in our taking proper measures with Turkish authorities for amnesty and security of lives and property of Christians returning home, and Pasha, acting on our suggestion, has ordered troops to continue abstaining from hostile movements pending further orders from Porte. We propose following:—

"Full and unconditional amnesty to insurgents twenty days from 1st instant, for withdrawal of all the Turkish irregular troops, and of insurgent bands to their homes. Strict prohibition to Turkish and Christian inhabitants to carry arms. Prisoners implicated directly in insurrection to be immediately liberated; those of Hellenic nationality to be delivered to the Greek Consuls for conveyance to Greece, bands refusing within above period to be treated as outlaws; one year's remittance of taxes to both Turkish and Christian villages and farms. Greek and Turkish Governments to give every facility for recovering and restoring cattle stolen, and other property. For facilitating pacification we urge administration separately of Thessaly from Epirus. Insurgent chiefs have sent messengers to detachments in Mount Olympus to inform them of their resolution to retire, urgently praying that a ship-of-war should go to Catterina, in the Gulf of Salonica, to take them to Greece. They number about 160.

We promised to submit their request to our Government. May 'Falcon' go there for that purpose? It is very desirable that detachments should retire by land."

No. 107.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 429.) *Therapia, May 4, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th ultimo, respecting the Russian officers of engineers about to proceed from Naples to Egypt, I am informed by Admiral Hornby that Captain Beamish, of Her Majesty's ship "Pallas," reports the arrival of those persons at Alexandria.

Sent to Foreign Office, Rome, and Athens.

No. 108.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 430.) *Therapia, May 4, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL BILIOTTI telegraphs following, dated yesterday:—

"Tax delegates sent this afternoon a telegram thus worded:—

"Russians invaded Upper Ayara yesterday. Volunteers who were there started for Batoum. When passing through Lower Acara their arms and munitions were taken by the inhabitants, who have risen to oppose Russians. Hear that the Russians at Livana are preparing to accomplish their object. Hostilities will begin, no doubt, in a day or two. Populations rely on commisseration and humanity of British Government and nation.

No. 109.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 431.) *Constantinople, May 4, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

PALACE and Minister for Foreign Affairs have seen General Todleben to-day and it has been agreed that Shumla shall be surrendered at once, but that Turkey shall retain possession for the present of Varna and Batoum on grounds which the General, who showed on this occasion a conciliatory disposition, accepted as admissible. Porte is now exceedingly desirous that Her Majesty's Government should succeed in effecting simultaneous withdrawal of British fleet and Russian army.

No. 110.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 53. Political.) *Belgrade, April 23, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 51 of the 16th instant, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that the Servian Government has determined to liberate all the Turkish prisoners detained in this country with the exception of the officers only, and that in consequence of an arrangement made between the respective commanders, the Turkish captive soldiers are being conveyed to Bertsku, on the River Save, situated in Bosnia, where they are given up to the Ottoman authorities; their number is stated at about 3,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 111.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 54. Political. Secret.) *Belgrade, April 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM informed in the strictest confidence that the Hellenic Government has made attempts lately to come to some common understanding with the Governments at Belgrade and Bucharest, with a view to mutual support against the policy pursued by Russia, by which all the more or less legitimate hopes and aspirations of the different nationalities are all made subservient to the one supreme desire of Russian ambition to create an artificial Bulgaria most suitable to future plans.

I am not aware what kind of reception was given to these overtures by the Government of Prince Charles, but Russian influence is still too powerful here to make one suppose that Prince Milan would be favourably disposed to any scheme having for its object a league of small independant Eastern States, seeking to make themselves free from their great protector the Czar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 112.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 55. Political.) *Belgrade, April 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE chief matter to which this Government continue to devote their principal attention is their desire to secure as permanent possessions those places which are occupied by their troops under the armistice.

With that view an active propaganda is made amongst the inhabitants of those districts, and Prince Milan proposes visiting them shortly, with the hope of disposing the population favourably to such annexation.

The greatest apprehension is felt on the subject of Pirot, an important town near Nish, still occupied by a Servian garrison, but which is situated within the limits of the New Bulgaria, under the projected Treaty of San Stefano, and which the Servians would very much like to keep permanently.

At Pirot the Bulgarian portion of the population is under the influence of a Bulgar Committee, organized at Sofia, and are thus prevented from indulging in any other sympathies than those dictated from there.

M. Ristitch is naturally anxious to learn how far Austria will insist on leaving a larger space between Montenegro and Servia than the narrow one projected at San Stefano, and whether some other compensation will be granted to this Principality, should her new frontier have to be modified in favour of a Turkish or an Austrian military road in that direction.

It is with a view to some such alteration that he has had the two maps prepared, of which I had the honour to send your Lordship copies, with my despatch No. 52, Political, but he has not supplied me yet with the explanatory notes to these maps, which he promised me at the time, and by which he intends showing that Servia has a fair claim to many places which Russia wishes to incorporate with Bulgaria, such as Pirot (Sharkoi), Trn, Radomir, Vrain or Vranya, Koprili, Prizren, on historical or ethnological grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 113.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 56. Political.) *Belgrade, April 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Leshianin has just returned from St. Petersburgh, whether he had been sent by Prince Milan for the purpose of present-

ing the "Grand Cordon" of the order of the "Takovo" to the Emperor of Russia, and with His Majesty's permission to a few dignitaries of the Empire.

These decorations have been graciously accepted, and the Emperor has transmitted here messages of good will and sympathy, with an assurance that Servian wishes will receive the most favourable consideration that can be possibly given them.

It was expected here that on General Leshianin's return something more could be learnt as to the course which Russia wishes Prince Milan to pursue, in case that Power has to fight again for supremacy over the provinces which constituted European Turkey.

Both the Prince and M. Ristitch continue asserting that Servia has no desire to continue as partner in any such struggle, and that she will abstain from every hostile act, provided she can do so with a proper sense of security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 114.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 6.*)

(No. 57. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, April 20, 1878.*

IT is agreed on all sides that the condition of the various populations inhabiting the Balkanic Peninsula continues precarious and unsettled, and that the arrangements projected by the document called the Treaty of San Stefano are such as are most unlikely to secure to the various inhabitants, races, and creeds affected by them, either lasting peace or the benefits of tranquillity and good government.

The Servians are loud in their protests and deny that the Russian programme has done anything sufficiently full and fair towards adjusting the claims of their race and nationality, and though their Prince and official men are reluctant to speak for fear of giving offence to Russia and thus affording an excuse to the Czar for throwing them over entirely and handing them to Austria as the price of that Power's neutrality still it is undeniable that their relations to the future Bulgaria will be anything but amicable if matters are allowed to take their natural course.

The feeling of exasperation and resentment which the projected arrangement has called out in Greece is too well and generally known to require special reference, and it hardly need be pointed out that Europe must be prepared for a constant recurrence of acts of resistance and of bloody repression in all the provinces where a Hellenic population is to be found if the claims of that race remain entirely disregarded.

The very serious results of the new state of things is beginning to be felt by the Russians themselves by the light which the growing importance of the Mahometan revolt in the Rhodope districts throws on the drawbacks attending an occupation of any country under conditions such as these.

Even before this occurrence there was much criticism in Russia on the subject of the manner in which the late Prince Cherkasski had commenced his task of reorganizing Bulgaria, as will appear by the accompanying "précis" of an article of Professor Outine on this subject, which appeared in February in one of the leading Russian monthly periodicals.

It appears that there is a class of influential persons in Russia, and that by no means an inconsiderable one, who view with alarm the burden which the Empire is about to impose on itself by assuming the sole control of the Bulgarian question and defying other Powers on the subject. The acts of injustice committed, and the general alarm occasioned to the Mahometan portion of the inhabitants, many of whom, called Pomaks, are Bulgarians by race, has been the cause of the large exodus of these from the districts occupied by Russian troops.

If the hope was entertained by the invaders that they would rid the country by this means of a large portion of the new Christian population, and thus enable the new rulers to dispose quietly of the deserted houses and lands of these people, there could not have been a greater delusion.

Persons well acquainted with these localities assure me that no greater mistake can be made than to suppose that a rural population accustomed for centuries to all the privileges of a dominant class and whose martial habits have been fostered for generations will quietly submit to be dispossessed of their lands and houses, and will acquiesce in being driven away from their homes. As the new authorities have failed intentionally or accidentally to restore confidence and thereby induce those who had fled to return to

their peaceful avocations, the aged and feeble have gone elsewhere, but the young and strong ones will for years to come continue in the mountains, and the condition of these districts is not likely to be a peaceful one or one free from brigandage for a long time to come. Indeed nothing similar has been seen in Europe for centuries, and the opinion of a Slavonic patriot and author in a pamphlet just published at Paris ("La Réorganisation Politique de l'Orient." Dentu, 1878), is but too true, "La Russie se trompe étrangement si elle croit avoir tranquillisé la Péninsule en créant une grande Bulgarie."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Russian Criticisms on Prince Cherkasski's Administration in Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

THE future organization of Bulgaria is a matter of such importance, that ever since the commencement of the war, men have been attentively watching the *modus operandi* of the Russian Civil Administration.

A connected detailed account has, however, only been published in the last few days, coming, as it happens, from a Russian source.

The St. Petersburgh monthly periodical, "The European Messenger"* publishes in its February number a critique of Prince Tcherkassky's administration, written by a celebrated Russian lawyer, Eugen Outin (a reported former Professor of the St. Petersburgh University), who went over the theatre of war during last autumn and winter. According to him, a considerable majority of the members of this civil administration consists not of civil employés, but of officers of the Guard from St. Petersburgh, men who have never exercised administrative functions, and utterly devoid of previous training.

Most of these gentlemen accepted the office allotted to them very unwillingly, and after a prolonged resistance, as they had no idea of the nature of the office assigned them, and felt as if about to be transferred to an enchanted wood.

We could not well refuse, as the Guard was, according to original dispositions, to remain at St. Petersburgh, and we would, by declining to accept the posts offered us, have deprived ourselves of the only opportunity of getting to the seat of war. Besides, we retained our places in the regiment, so that we could at any moment return to the army.

The way we have been treated since is certainly curious enough. At St. Petersburgh they all cried, "Hurry yourselves, there is no time to be lost," and when we got to Tirnova they said, "Remain quiet, we have not a notion what to do with you." In St. Petersburgh we were informed, when we tried to excuse ourselves on the plea of want of technical knowledge, "Never mind, you will receive detailed instructions." Here on the spot there is a general complaint that we are either given no practical instructions whatever, or such as are utterly impossible to carry out.

On twenty occasions, at least, continues M. Outin, have I heard complaints that those whose duty it was to instruct the others in their new duties, had themselves not a notion what to do. An order would be issued one day only to be cancelled on the morrow, &c. If we inquire how it came about that almost exclusively young officers, men of honour, but totally ignorant of political economy and administration, have been selected, the initiated tell us that Prince Tcherkassky chose military men because they were accustomed to discipline and unreasoning obedience, and there was no danger of their disputing the will of their Chief.

The Civil Governor-in-chief for Bulgaria appears to have thought that there was only one sensible opinion in the world, namely, his own; wherefore only pliant tools were of use to him. This is the reason why he filled up the administrative posts with officers.

Concerning the programme and the preparatory measures adopted by this curiously composed commission, M. Outin publishes the following:—

"The first step adopted by the Prince was the appointing of a commission for collecting data concerning the existing state of Bulgaria.

On the 3rd May the Commission commenced its arduous task, and on the 21st May, *i.e.*, after a lapse of eighteen days, appeared the first fruits of their labours,—nine sheets of print. If we deduct the time which the setting in type occasioned in a small Roumanian

* One of the most important Russian monthly periodicals.

team by two type-setters) must have required, it appears that the Commission must have completed this first part in two or three days. The whole consists of translations of extracts from foreign works which fell by accident into the hands of the Commission.

The Russian observer's remarks on the subject of the cost and "état" of Tchernkassky's Administration are no less interesting.

The cost of the "état" is defrayed by the taxes raised in Bulgaria, the Bulgarians will thus see how their money is employed. We shall be told that, whatever expenses our Administration may entail on the Bulgarians, they will still be paying less for it than they paid the Turks. This statement I can only answer to the effect that it was with this very object of removing the Turkish yoke that we went to Bulgaria. Generally, I may inform my readers that each Governor receives a yearly salary of 7,000 roubles (1 rouble= 2 s. =3*s.*) and from 6,000 to 10,000 roubles for extraordinary expenses; each Vice-Governor, 4,500 roubles; the District Inspector, 2,500 roubles and 1,500 roubles for travelling and other expenses; similarly the head of the police in a town, &c.

In the instructions concerning the salaries it is expressly stated: "The sums granted for extraordinary expenses, costs, &c., are placed at the free disposal of the various officials, who will not be required to account for them." In addition, we must remember that all these salaries are paid in gold; that every official proceeding to Bulgaria receives an extra year's salary for furnishing, &c., and that travelling allowances are calculated at the rate of journeys to Turkestan, and that every official receives besides free quarters at the expense of the town or district to which he is appointed.

We were aware before that the Russian Governor had not succeeded in making himself popular in the country he was sent to administrate; detailed information regarding the causes of this disappointment have, however, been published, for the first time, by M. Outin, in the "European Messenger," where we find the following:—

"How is it you are so dissatisfied with Tcherkassky's administration?" I asked on the first or second day after my arrival at Tirnova, of a Bulgarian of the so-called "young Bulgarian" party, with whom I had become acquainted, who was venting unlimited abuse on our administration. "We have been made to feel," replied he, "since the very first that the Russians had not come to Bulgaria in order to study our country and redress our wrongs, but to order us about and lord it over us without paying the least regard to our wishes and opinions."

This is capable of being proved by facts. Even before the Russian army crossed the Danube, a Bulgarian deputation went to Plojeshti, where it was very graciously received by the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow, but there (*i.e.* at the Civil Governor's) things were quite different. The gentlemen were told very plainly that the Administration did not want to have anything to do with any deputations of the kind, and that the members must not imagine that they represented the Bulgarian nation. Bulgaria, they said, possessed no political representation, and would receive none, and they seriously advised the gentlemen not to indulge in dreams of political grandeur. When one of the deputies wished to make a remark, he was stopped with the words, "We do not require your advice, you have got to obey and do what you are bid, and not to argue." We had formerly thought, continued my authority in conclusion, that only Turks treated unoffending people in that way.

At first I made no account of this story and thought the occurrence must be attributed to a misunderstanding, or fit of ill-temper on the part of the Governor-General. Continuing his account, M. Outin remarks that it is common for the employés to treat the Bulgarians in a contemptuous and overbearing way, and that most of them when alluding to this kindred nation as their "little brothers," give a mocking and contemptuous signification to the term. In proof of this, he quotes the following examples:—

"I know," said a District Inspector, "that the 'little brothers' can not bear me, but I do not care, they are a worthless set who must be well kept in hand. Now they are afraid of me because they know I will not pass over anything. If any man misbehaves, he instantly gets twenty-five lashes of the nahaika." I remarked that I hardly thought the nahaika was to be regarded as the best means of giving us the sympathies of the Bulgarian nation.

"If you were only to be District Inspector for a week," replied he, "you would be convinced that there is nothing to be done here without the nahaika. On an average, I dispense from 300 to 500 lashes a day. The fact is, you do not know the Bulgarians, and what on earth have we got to do with the sympathies of this people? We came to liberate the Bulgarian nation." And you brought the nahaika with you. "I assure you the nahaika is the best liberation for this nation."

* "Nahaika," name of the short Cossack whip.

The root of the evil is, according to Outin's opinion, to be sought in the fact that the method of pacification employed in Poland is also to be followed in Bulgaria.

The only persons who possess any real knowledge of the peculiar nature of their duties, and the necessary previous training, are the employés who have been entrusted with the administration of finance and justice, numbering in all, as M. Outin thinks, some three or four.

No. 115.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 58. Political.)

Belgrade, April 30, 1878.

My Lord,

THE great uncertainty as to the real views of Austrian statesmen on the subject of the territorial changes now being accomplished in the immediate vicinity of their Empire continues, and adds considerably to the difficulties of a situation sufficiently dark and perilous without this additional unknown element.

The measures adopted by the authorities in Croatia with a view to compel the Bosnian refugees to return to their province, combined with certain conversations attributed to Count Zichy previous to his taking leave of the Ottoman Ministers a couple of weeks ago, have contributed to revive reports of a probable occupation of Bosnia by Austrian troops.

In this country all this uncertainty helps the partizans of Russia in this way, that it makes them disseminate an opinion that if the Emperor of Russia should have any cause to be dissatisfied with the conduct of this Principality, he would find it his interest to allow the Austrians to take possession of Servia, and this danger is therefore alleged as an additional reason to cling to Russia to the last.

Information has been received here that the seat of Baron Hirsch's Company of Ottoman Railways has been transferred from Paris to Vienna, and that, moreover, some arrangement has been concluded by which the line from Mitrovitza to Salonica and other Turkish lines are placed under Austrian protectorate.

All these circumstances tend to confirm in the public mind the long existing suspicion that some other territorial arrangements are in contemplation which may ultimately disinterest Austria from active interference in opposition to Russian schemes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 116.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 38. Political.)

Scutari, April 22, 1878.

My Lord,

ABOUT six weeks ago most of the Italian newspapers gave publicity to a "Protest," which was alleged by the Albanian Committee of Italy to have been launched by the Chiefs of the tribes of Upper, Middle, and Lower Albania.

As at that time the "Protest" had no real existence in Upper Albania, I did not think it needful to trouble your Lordship's Department with any remarks on it, feeling sure that if it possessed any importance in Lower Albania it would be duly noticed by the Consular Officers there, and that also Her Majesty's Ambassador in Rome will have given it his consideration when it first appeared in Italy.

Now, however, the document has found its way here in the form shown by the inclosed printed paper, of which I have also the honour to furnish a translation.

Although the Chiefs of the tribes of Upper Albania are only now acquiring a knowledge of what they are represented to have sworn to and signed in February last, there can be no doubt that the general inclination here is to accept the paternity of the document, as it embodies a feeling of anxiety with regard to the fate of this Province which has been brought into existence by the events of the last two years, and especially through the oblivion with which North Albania has been treated in the stipulations at San Stefano.

The publication of the Protest may, most curiously, cause satisfaction not only to the Albano-Italian Committee but also to the Roman Catholic clergy and the Slav Com-

mittees, and even, in a way, to the Austro-Hungarian Government, if the latter wishes for confirmation of its suspicions that it possesses in Italy a rival coveting Albania.

The Latin priests momentarily countenance the Protest, as the opposition it raises to the advance of the liberal-minded Greek from the south is double-edged, and repels also the intolerant Montenegrin from the north.

The Slav Committees gladly support any movement likely to weaken and distract Albania, and I am inclined to believe that the introduction here of the Protest in its present form is due to those Committees.

Nevertheless, the origin of the document remains Italian, and its chief end is truly aimed against Hellenic influence. In North Albania Greece has neither aspirations nor adherents, owing to the insurmountable barriers raised by the Roman Catholic religion, but it is here, where an Italian pretension for annexation might plausibly be put forth, that a disposition possibly exists to waive it in favour of another and nearer pretender, that is, Austria.

In Middle and Lower Albania the Christian Albanians look towards Greece, not towards Italy, for freedom and advancement. The Greeks do not pretend that they are pure Hellenes, and call them Albano-Greeks, but they are just as much Greeks as the Piedmontese are Italians, and I can assert from personal intercourse with numerous Middle and Lower Albanians that no wish whatever exists for union with Italy, or an impracticable kingdom under the sceptre of a problematical descendant of Scanderbeg. They prefer to go many steps further back in history and recall that under Pyrrhus and Alexander the Great, the world then counted them as Greeks. Besides they have proof that in Modern Hellas the children of the Albanian heroes of the war of independence from Spetzia and Hydra, and other localities have been awarded their proper place and share in the government and advantages of freedom.

The sudden prospect of Greece being able to obtain a hearing, should a Congress of the Powers meet, has stirred into greater activity the Albano-Italian schemes, and from rumours set afloat it appears that a relaxation of pretentions to Albania as far as the River Matia, in favour of Austria, it is thought, might bring about consent from the latter to the absorption by Italy of Epirus as far as the Gulf of Arta.

These are the real plans of those who are here pretending to be working for a United Albania, under the Prince George Castriota Scanderbeg, mentioned in the Protest. For them North Albania is the price to be given to either Austria or Montenegro—whichever of the two has the power to take it—for the bigger but less compact morsel.

The said George Castriota Scanderbeg, I am told, was not very long ago treated rather summarily by the Italian Criminal Tribunals for laying claim to a nationality and extraction from a family to which he could not substantiate his right. Since then, after a period of obscurity, he has suddenly developed into a man of wealth, with princely residences both in Rome and at Florence, and has been adopted by the Albano-Italian Committee as the corner stone of their projected edifice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Protest of Albanians against Union with Greece.

(Translation.)

THE Albanian Committee of Italy hastens to answer the appeal which has been made to it, publishing the following:—

Protest.

It being now known that the Government of Athens had declared that it wished to rank Epirus among the Hellenic provinces, and that some of the Greeks living amongst us, or who have recently come, had gone so far as to proclaim the annexation of our country to theirs; we, true Albanians and sons of true Albanians, protest and loudly declare before God and men that ancient Epirus, or Lower Albania, New Epirus, or Middle Albania, Upper Albania, or Ghega, which have formed part of the ancient and glorious Kingdom of Epirus and Albania, are all, with equal right, the dominion of the Albanians, who have possessed them in all times, without the memory of man being able to point out another possessor.

And we swear on the blood of our fathers, and on the invincible sword of our hero King Scanderbeg, that we and our children will know how to possess them not less

gloriously than our ancestors; and we will possess them as long as an Albanian heart will beat at the recollection of that sword and of that blood!

And therefore we appeal to our well-beloved Prince Giorgio Castriota Scanderbeg, and to all our fellow countrymen who are dispersed over the hospitable land of Italy, in the vast Ottoman Empire, in Livadia, and in the Islands, that they may unite their voice to ours in this protest, which we advance to all the great authorities and Powers, conjuring them to watch over the integrity of our dear country, menaced by the covetousness of the Government of Athens, which, attempting to give us liberty through annexation, seeks to spoil us of the supreme happiness of a people—its nationality.

And what use would it be to us to be free if we were no longer Albanians?

We direct, therefore, our Central Committee, and our Committees abroad, to give the widest publicity to the present Protest by means of the local press and through the newspapers.

From the Albanian Mountains, this 12th February, 1878.

The Chiefs of the Tribes of Upper, Middle, and Lower Albania.

(Follow the signatures).

No. 117.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Scutari, April 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Roman Catholic Primate of Albania, who resides here, expresses himself greatly dissatisfied at the conduct of the Montenegrin authorities towards his clergy in the newly conquered districts of Antivari and Dulcigno.

The Archbishop complains that the Prince of Montenegro has refused to acknowledge the *status* of a parish priest recently named to Antivari, on the ground that His Highness was not first consulted about the appointment; and the priest himself writes that the Roman Catholics of Antivari are subjected to all kinds of petty persecutions.

From Slav sources I hear these statements denied, and assertions made that they are put in circulation at the instigation of the Austro-Hungarian Consular officers. There is no doubt that the latter are giving effectual support not only to the Roman Catholics but also to the Mahommedans in Antivari, and that they have not prevented an impression gaining ground that Montenegro will have to cede to Austria the districts of Dulcigno and Antivari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 118.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 38. Political.)

Scutari, April 25, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Turkish authorities here express themselves unable to understand the irregular proceedings of the Montenegrins in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza.

Every evening strong detachments are advanced to positions which cut off Podgoritza from its communications both with Spuz and with Helm, the port on Lake Scutari, and in the morning are withdrawn.

Hussein Pasha, fearing that these precautions might, on the slightest pretext, take a permanent form, sent two officers to Cettinjé to endeavour, in a friendly way, to induce the Prince to order their discontinuance.

His Highness treated the officers with the attention due to their rank, but they have only brought back with them the expression of His Highness' opinion that Europe is once again misleading Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 119.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, April 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I returned here yesterday from verifying the Turkish statement regarding a military road into Bosnia, communicated to me by your Lordship's telegram of the fifth instant.

The principal road into Bosnia from Roumelia is from Mitrovica, by way of Novi-Bazar, Sjenica, Nova-Varos, Priboj, Višégrad, and Rogatica to Bosna-Serai. This road was the one always formerly used both as the post road and for the passage of troops; and about ten or twelve years ago, in the time of the Governorship of Osman Pasha, it was made practicable for wheeled vehicles. From neglect, it has fallen into a complete state of disrepair, and there are vey few parts which could now be traversed by carts; but it is the route which presents the fewest engineering difficulties, and the one that is the least obstructed by snow in the winter.

By the proposed extension of the south-western frontiers of Servia this road would be completely cut off between Mitrovica and Novi-Bazar, and the only alternative would be to carry the road over the high mountain range called the Mokra Planina to Sjenica, leaving Novi-Bazar to the east. From Sjenica to Banja the road would not be affected by the proposed change of either the Servian or Montenegrin boundaries. From Banja, however, the road descends to the valley of the Lim, and skirts that river for a distance of about six miles to the River Uvca. The valley of the Lim at this part is very narrow, steep hills descending almost to the water's edge; and the river, a swift and unfordable stream, varies from about fifty to eighty yards across. The road would still pass over Turkish territory, but so completely would it be commanded by the Montenegrin hills on the left bank of the Lim that it would be rendered almost useless as a military road. As the country was occupied by Servian troops I was unable to make more minute investigations, but I was told that, by quitting the present road near Rutose, another road might be carried over the Banjska Brdo and descend by Rabrenovac to the passage of the Uvca. It would, however, probably pass inconveniently near the Servian frontier, but this could only be decided after a proper survey of the country. From the Uvca to Visegrad, although the road passes at no great distance from the Lim, it is completely separated from the valley of that stream by high mountains, and would therefore not be affected by the change of boundary.

The second road into Bosnia branches off from Sjenica and goes by way of Prjepolje, Plevlje (Taslidza), Cainica, and Gorazda to Bosna-Serai; from Gorazda either passing by Rogatica or direct by Praca and Pale. This road, according to the Treaty of San Stefano, would pass through Montenegrin territory from Prjepolje to Gorazda. The statement, however, made by the Turkish authorities, that it is the only practicable one is certainly not correct. It passes through a much more inaccessible country, and, to make it available for wheeled vehicles, presents far greater engineering difficulties than the Nova-Varos-Priboj-Visegrad road. It was never used as the high road from Constantinople till the Turco-Servian War of 1876, when the other road became unsafe. Immediately on the conclusion of peace with Servia last spring, the post and other traffic reverted again to the Nova-Varos-Visegrad road, but this has now been abandoned a second time because the Servian troops have interrupted communications by occupying the country lying between their frontier and the Lim from Banja to within a few miles of Nova-Varos and Prjepolje.

In short, the true military road into Bosnia may undoubtedly be considered to be by way of Nova-Varos, Priboj, and Visegrad; but it appears necessary to make some modifications in the boundaries of Servia and Montenegro, as fixed by the San Stefano Treaty, so that the road may not be commanded by either of the Principalities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 120.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 25. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, April 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's attention the fact that, in spite of the conclusion of peace, the Servians still occupy the country between their frontier and the River Lim from Banja to within a short distance of Nova-Varos and Prjepolje, the Commander of the troops holding the district having his head-quarters at Radobinia, on Turkish territory. All communications are interrupted, and no one is allowed to pass even along the high road. This advance of the Servians only took place, as already reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, in his despatch of the 13th ultimo, copy of which I forwarded to the Earl of Derby, inclosed in my despatch Political, No. 15, after the conclusion of the armistice, and in spite of the protests of the Turks.

Three telegraph lines pass through this territory, but they are now all three out of repair. At first the Servians kept them in working order themselves, but latterly they have ceased to do so, nor will they allow the Turkish telegraph employés to pass along and effect the necessary repairs.

On my late journey, foreseeing that I might meet with difficulty in going from Priboj to Prjepolje, I sent forward from the former place a written request to the officer in command of the troops to accord me and my escort a free passage. Four-and-twenty hours later I presented myself at the Servian outposts at Banja, but was not allowed to proceed, no answer having been received from the head-quarters of the district at Radobinia. It was raining, but with the greatest difficulty I persuaded the sergeant in command of the outpost to allow me and my servant to take shelter in one of the soldier's huts. He was extremely civil and well-behaved, but said his orders were to let no one approach their positions. My horses, baggage, and escort had to remain on the road. After waiting nearly four hours a verbal answer to my request came from Radobinia that I must return to Priboj and wait, as the matter had been referred to Belgrade. At Priboj I could obtain food for neither man nor beast, and I therefore crossed over the River Lim in a boat, and reached Prjepolje by the left bank of the river, by an almost impassable mountain road.

I mention this circumstance to your Lordship, as, should the Servians have eventually sent an officer to meet and escort me, as they did in the case of Captain Cooper, they may think it extraordinary that I applied for permission to pass and then took another route. Having neither food nor forage, I could not, as stated above, remain indefinitely at Priboj, and I thought that in waiting four-and-twenty hours I had done all that courtesy could demand; I was also loath to prolong, unnecessarily as it appeared to me, my absence from my post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 121.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, April 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, referring to his despatch of the 9th instant, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship inclosed in my despatch No. 22, Political, of the 12th. Mr. Cooper seems to think that the clause in the San Stefano Treaty regarding Novi-Bazar is capable of a double reading, and that it may mean that the whole town remains to Turkey, and not only a portion of it as he had stated in his former despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Mostar, April 18, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to a paragraph in my despatch of the 9th instant, in which I stated that the town of Novi-Bazar would be divided between Servia and Bosnia if the frontiere proposed by the San Stefano Treaty were accepted, I may have made a mistake.

The following extract from the inclosure in Mr. Jocelyn's despatch of the 16th March, "Jusqu'à la rivière Raska et puis le cours de celle-ci jusqu'à Novi-Bazar. De Novi-Bazar remontant le ruisseau qui passe près des villages Mekinje et Irgoviste," may mean that the frontier line will pass through Novi-Bazar, or follow the Mekinje stream from its junction with the Raska.

If the second be the intended reading, the castle, konak, mosque, and chief Moslem houses in Novi-Bazar will remain to Bosnia, as the Mekinje stream skirts the south-east of the town, and joins the Raska below the castle.

The Austrian Staff Map, 1876, though the best, does not show very clearly nor accurately the line of the land near Novi-Bazar. I am telegraphing the substance of the above to Constantinople, and, in your absence from Bosna-Serai, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 340. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 20, 1878.

M. BALACHANO, the Roumanian Agent, informs me that the Russian Government have been endeavouring to persuade the Government of the Principality to conclude a Convention, of the same import as the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, for the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania for a period of two years.

The Emperor of Russia had written to Prince Charles a letter which, M. Balachano states, was of a directly menacing nature, informing him that if he declined to make the Convention, he should himself be obliged to take the measures requisite for the safety and convenience of his army; but the Roumanian Government have, it seems, no intention of complying.

M. Balachano speaks of the Russian army as being practically in possession of Bucharest, where, according to the arrangement made between the two Governments previous to the war, they have no right to be at all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 341.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 20, 1878.

THE conviction that there must shortly be an Austrian occupation of Bosnia is becoming general here, and many of those who had been most opposed to it, now consider that it will probably not be avoided.

The Hungarians themselves seem to be reconciled to a measure which, it is believed, will not take place in the manner they so much deprecated.

They, as well as the majority of the German nationality of the Empire, would have offered the strongest opposition to a step being taken leading to the annexation if, as had been advocated by some, it were made upon the strength of any understanding with Russia, but if it accompanies other measures indicating an intention of opposing that Power, their repugnance will give way.

The most important of the independant newspapers of Vienna, which had hitherto consistently and strenuously combated the arguments in favour of a Bosnian occupation,

now recommends its immediate adoption, if a rupture should take place between England and Russia.

It argues that the immediate consequence of such an event would be at once again to bring into the field both the Servians and the Montenegrins, the latter having never laid aside their arms, for the purpose of carrying out a further Slav extension, which could not be tolerated by Austria, who would be bound to paralyse their action by the presence of a force in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

The paper in question, the "Neue Freie Presse," is no supporter of the Government of Count Andrassy, upon whom its criticisms have often been very severe, and on this occasion it expresses, I believe, pretty accurately the general feeling of the public.

The credit voted by the Delegations for the maintenance of the Bosnian refugees will expire on the last day of the present month, after which, if they are allowed to remain in Austria, the sum necessary for their support will have to be provided by the Government on its own responsibility, but it is impossible to accept seriously the argument that, in order to save the cost of their support, it is necessary to provide for their safe return to Turkey, by a military occupation which will be many times more expensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 344.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of an order of the Ministry of Finance, dated 28th April, which prohibits the export of torpedoes, whether completed or in pieces.

In reply to an inquiry which I addressed to Baron Calice, I am informed that this prohibition applies to the export of torpedoes by sea as well as by land.

Last night I received a telegram in cypher from Mr. Vice-Consul Faber, reporting that "the export of torpedoes from Fiume has been stopped altogether, and permission granted to Germany for exporting fifty torpedoes has been withdrawn specially."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Order of the Ministry of Finance of the 28th April, 1878.

(Translation.)

IN pursuance of a Ministerial decision, and with the concurrence of the Royal Hungarian Ministry, the export is forbidden of torpedoes—even when they are in a disjointed state—across every frontier of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

This prohibition is to come into force from the day of its publication.

(Signed) AUERSPERG.
PRETIS.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 345. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 2, 1878.

I LEARN that the prohibition of the exportation of torpedoes from Austria-Hungary was due to the remonstrances of M. Novikow, who complained of their being allowed to be exported by Her Majesty's Government, but not by his own.

Your Lordship is aware that the Russian Government were not permitted to export a certain number of torpedoes which had been prepared for shipment during the armistice which preceded the signature of the Treaty of San Stefano; but since the conclusion of that Treaty it has been thought difficult to allow the exportation to one Power, and to refuse it to any other that is not at war.

Another reason given for the prohibition is, that the Austrian Government have themselves need of torpedoes; but so many have been ordered by different Governments, that those required here could not be supplied for six months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 126.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office May 6.)

(No. 20. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda Pesth, April 30, 1878.*

MANY of my Hungarian friends having spoken to me of the bad impression produced in all parts of the Empire by the allegation understood to have been made in the House of Lords of the probable untrustworthiness of the Slav regiments of the Austro-Hungarian army in the event of a war with Russia, I think it as well to place on record the opinions I have formed upon this subject. Although my residence in different parts of the Empire might appear to justify me in putting forward those opinions somewhat authoritatively, I confess that I feel considerable diffidence in enunciating views in very direct contradiction to those held by persons whose sources of information I am of course bound to regard as deserving of confidence.

In my civilian character, I have no pretension to meddle with subjects falling exclusively within the competence of the military agents of Her Majesty's Government, nor any right to pronounce an opinion upon matters affecting the discipline and efficiency of the Austro-Hungarian army from a purely regimental point of view. In this respect, I can but quote the language of officers high in command, and belonging to different nationalities, whose friendship I have had the pleasure of enjoying. I have been intimate with many such, and have not only never heard from their lips the slightest suspicion of the possibility of disloyalty in the ranks, but, on the contrary, the very frequent assertion that the Slav regiments would, in any emergency and against any foe, be found the prompt and faithful soldiers of the Emperor.

The recent statement that the contrary might be the case has induced me to put the question directly to everyone who has mentioned the subject to me. Civilians and soldiers are unanimous in declaring that there is but one district in the Empire which might prove troublesome in the event of an Austro-Russian war—that, namely, of the Banat, which is occupied by Serbs. It is in this region that the Serb agitators, Miletics, Polit, and others, have fomented disloyalty. But, numerically considered, the disloyal are weak, the whole population likely to be disaffected consisting of some 300,000 souls. In the case of the Catholic Slavs, their religion alone is sufficient cause of antipathy to Russia; and throughout those of the Orthodox or Greek faith, Slav sentiments and aspirations have nothing in common with union to Russia.

Certainly my own impressions of the southern Slavs, derived from a not inconsiderable sojourn among them, amounts to the conviction that their dread of Russian domination, and antipathy to the Russian character, will always prove a wholesome corrective to any anti-dynastic tendencies (which, however, I have never perceived); and even in Montenegro, where Russia has for years expended much money and labour, I have never conversed with anyone, from Prince Nicholas downwards, who did not openly avow his anti-Russian prejudices, and deplore the concatenation of circumstances, and the course of an unwise policy, which had resulted in rendering the Principality so dependent upon Russian aid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 127.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 294. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 29, 1878.*

A WELL-INFORMED colleague coming from St. Petersburgh on his way home, called on me, and told me privately that he knew for certain that the frontiers of Bulgaria proposed by Austria to Russia were as follows:—

To the east and to the south the frontiers proposed at the Conference of Constantinople last year.

To the west a straight line of frontier drawn from the southern end of Servia at Urania, towards Orfani, in the Gulf of Rendina, which would leave Turkey in possession of Kavalla and the Ægean coast.

My informant was under the impression that these frontiers had been agreed to by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 128.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 298. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 29, 1878.*

THE French Ambassador told me, in strict confidence to-day, that he had been informed from Vienna that the Austrian Government had finally decided on occupying Bosnia, and were making the necessary military preparations for that purpose. He was under the impression that the proposed measure was the result of an agreement between the Austrian and Russian Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 129.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 300. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 30, 1878.*

I HAVE been privately informed that Count Andrassy has also recommended to the favourable consideration of the German Government the line of frontier for Bulgaria, which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch No. 294, Confidential, of yesterday's date, as having been proposed by his Excellency to the Russian Government.

Count Andrassy, I am assured, does not think that the Balkan line of frontier would be acceptable to the Russian Government.

I think it probable that Prince Bismarck will take the same view as Count Andrassy when pressed to pronounce himself on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 130.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 30, 1878.*

SOME excitement has been produced in Germany by a press report that an English fleet was going to the Baltic, and a counter-report has been circulated that Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia would unite to declare the Baltic a *mare clausum*.

It is now asserted that King Oscar of Sweden's visit to Berlin, and Field-Marshal Count Moltke's visit to Denmark, were connected with this scheme, and that a quadruple alliance has been concluded for the sole purpose of excluding the British fleet from the Baltic.

I am in a position to state that, as far as Germany is concerned, there is no truth in this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 131.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 6.*)

(No. 11. Political.)

Warsaw, May 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I have ascertained, from sources which I consider reliable, that 40,000 troops are assembled in the fortress of Brzese (*sic*) and the vicinity.

Also I am informed that an army, to be called the Western Army, is being formed in Poland, consisting of fifteen divisions, and will be under the command of the Heir Apparent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. MAUDE.

No. 132.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 6.*)

(No. 25. Political.)

Corfu, May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" returned to Corfu yesterday, from a week's cruise along the coast of Upper Albania, having touched to San Giovanni di Medua-Durazzo and Avlona.

2. At San Giovanni Commander Fitzgerald had an interview with Mr. Kirby Green, who came down from Scutari on purpose.

3. At the Ports of Durazzo and Avlona all was tranquil; although, further inland, the roads were not considered so safe as they had been found up to a very recent period.

4. I have the honour to inclose copy of my latest report from Santa Maura relative to the number of torpedoes laid down off the Port of Prevesa, to which fact allusion was made in my despatch No. 16, Consular, of the 22nd ultimo.

5. Throughout the Ionian Islands, according to my most recent accounts, political agitation was at a standstill, and naturally will so remain till after the Easter holidays.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, April 27, 1878.

Sir,

ON the strength of official advices from Prevesa, I have the honour to report that the Turks have sunk thirty-one torpedoes in all off that port and at the entrance of the Gulf of Arta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 133.

Mr. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 6.*)

(No. 46. Most Confidential.)

Brussels, May 5, 1878.

My Lord,

SHORTLY after my return to Brussels I had an interesting conversation with Caratheodory Effendi, the Turkish Minister here, in the course of which he gave me his views with great freedom on a question that he said has long occupied his mind, namely, the best means of raising a barrier against Russian aggression and domination in European Turkey.

This, he said, he thought might be effected at some future opportune moment by forming a Confederation, including the Ottoman Empire, the Kingdom of Greece, and the

Principalities of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, and a Bulgarian Principality north of the Balkans, while the other Turkish dominions in Europe might be divided into five provinces, the whole forming a federal neutral State placed under the collective guarantee of Europe and having a common military, Customs, postal, and telegraphic administration.

M. Caratheodory, who has evidently studied the question of the future of the European provinces of Turkey, with the advantage of a thorough local knowledge, entered into so many interesting details on the subject which I was unable to retain, that I requested him to be good enough to place them on record in the form of a Memorandum.

This he has been kind enough to do, requesting me to consider the communication as absolutely confidential, and he has called my attention more especially to the first of the two tables annexed to his Memorandum, containing statistical information with reference to the Greek population in Thrace and Macedonia, which he considers to be more authentic than any that has hitherto been published on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 134.

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 6.*)

My Lord,

Patriarchat des Arméniens, Constantinople, le 1/13 *Avril*, 1878.

JE me rappelle encore l'accueil bienveillant, plein de sympathie pour le peuple Arménien, que j'ai rencontré auprès de votre Seigneurie, l'année passée, à Constantinople. Le Patriarche des Arméniens se faisait alors un devoir, Milord, de saluer en vous le digne Représentant de la grande et noble Angleterre, qui venait chercher et faire prévaloir, au sein de la Conférence, une solution pacifique de la question d'Orient, basée sur le droit et la justice. Il vient aujourd'hui bénir celui qui, dans un moment aussi décisif pour le sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, vient prendre en main la direction de la politique de son pays.

Le peuple que je représente, Milord, est digne de l'intérêt que votre Seigneurie lui a déjà témoigné l'année passée; il est digne de la protection que je viens solliciter pour lui dans les circonstances actuelles. Ses titres historiques sont établis par une longue série de siècles d'existence politique. Il est un des premiers peuples qui se sont formés sur la terre; un des premiers qui se sont convertis au Christianisme.

Ayant perdu son indépendance à la suite de l'invasion des hordes barbares, le peuple Arménien s'est attaché avec plus de force au sentiment de sa nationalité, et il s'est maintenu en Orient avec son caractère d'individualité distincte, avec sa langue et avec son Eglise indépendante.

Peuple martyre depuis cinq siècles, il s'est réfugié dans sa foi et il a espéré un meilleur avenir. Il s'y est préparé en développant chez lui l'instruction publique et en appliquant pour la première fois en Turquie, il y a de cela environ vingt ans, pour son administration civile et religieuse les principes constitutionnels. Je puis le dire sans exagération et avec un légitime orgueil: seul de tous les peuples de l'Asie, son esprit s'est ouvert au progrès et aux idées nouvelles. Seul aussi, parmi les peuples Chrétiens de la Turquie, il a su attendre sans être une cause de troubles et de perturbations en Orient.

Mais, aujourd'hui il croit nécessaire de faire entendre sa voix à l'Europe. L'Europe le repoussera-t-elle? Non! Nous en avons pour garant votre Seigneurie elle-même. Dans sa dernière circulaire, par laquelle elle convie l'Europe à chercher la satisfaction de ses intérêts menacés en Orient dans celle qui est dûe aux populations Chrétiennes, votre Seigneurie ne déclare-t-elle pas que le but de l'Angleterre est d'assurer à ces populations un bon gouvernement, la paix et la liberté?

Votre Seigneurie a étudié de près les divers éléments de la question qui est aujourd'hui posée définitivement devant l'Europe. Personne plus qu'elle n'est à même de savoir et de dire à l'Angleterre ce qui peut être efficace, et ce qui ne serait qu'illusoire pour atteindre ce but, tout autant nécessaire au point de vue de la politique de conservation et d'équilibre Européen, qu'à celui de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

J'ai, &c.

Patriarche Arménien de Constantinople,

(Signé) ARAKIEL ARCHEVÊQUE NARDIAN.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Memorandum.

LA question d'Orient vient d'entrer dans une phase qui impose une solution immédiate et définitive. Si, jusqu'ici et depuis un siècle, elle est restée suspendue comme une menace, cette menace, on peut le dire, a éclaté aujourd'hui.

Les arrangements diplomatiques, les compromis, les réformes imposées ou promises, n'ont servi qu'à ajourner l'explosion, mais ils ont servi aussi, par leur inanité, à la rendre d'autant plus justifiée aux yeux de tous. Les événements qui viennent de s'accomplir, par cela même qu'ils se sont produits, ont posé d'une manière inévitable ce dilemme à l'Europe: ou il faut qu'ils s'effacent en entraînant dans leur disparition toutes leurs conséquences; ou il faut qu'ils produisent leur plein et entier effet.

La clairvoyance de l'Europe ne saurait plus chercher le salut des intérêts qu'elle a en vue dans une autre solution que dans une solution complète, c'est-à-dire la seule solution qui soit raisonnable, naturelle, et possible.

Elle découle de la nature même de la question.

La question d'Orient est la question de l'affaiblissement de l'Empire Ottoman, compliqué du fait de la coexistence des Musulmans et des Chrétiens dans certaines parties de la Turquie. Ce qui constitue le côté irritant de la question, ce qui rend le danger imminent, ce qui tend à précipiter les solutions au détriment des intérêts conservateurs de l'Europe, c'est cette complication, cette coexistence devenue impossible dans les conditions actuelles; ce sont les graves désastres qu'elle provoque.

La Turquie a plusieurs Etats grands et petits pour voisins. Aucune question de voisinage ou d'intérêt matériel n'a servi jusqu'ici de prétexte ou n'a donné lieu depuis un siècle à des conflits sérieux. D'une autre côté, les parties de la Turquie qui sont exclusivement habitées par des Musulmans sont restées en dehors de l'agitation causée par la question d'Orient.

On doit en conclure que tout danger de cataclysme ou de solution précipitée disparaîtrait, si l'on parvenait à résoudre la question de savoir de quelle manière peuvent vivre ensemble les Musulmans et les Chrétiens.

Les Puissances Européennes qui ont fait la guerre de Crimée pour défendre la Turquie contre la Russie ont senti que leurs victoires seraient impuissantes à conjurer le danger et à clore définitivement la question d'Orient. Elles se sont occupées du sort des Chrétiens. Le Hatti-Humayoun de 1856 est l'expression de leur politique à cet égard, politique de paix et de prévoyance. On ne peut pas dire que ces réformes ne contiennent en germe toute ce qui doit assurer aux Chrétiens la sécurité de leurs biens, de leur vie, et de leur honneur, et leur égalité avec les Musulmans. Depuis cette époque de nouvelles réformes, conçues dans le même esprit et servant de développement aux premières, ont été promulguées à des dates différentes; et, en dernier lieu, un suprême effort d'égalité et de fusion même a été fait par la proclamation de la Constitution Ottomane.

Tous ces efforts n'ont abouti qu'à l'impuissance. Le Chrétien a continué à gémir dans son infériorité vis-à-vis du Musulman, et l'égalité politique comme l'égalité civile n'ont été qu'un vain mot! Partout où l'autorité est Musulmane, le même résultat constant, invariable, s'est produit: à savoir que les lois ont été impuissantes à protéger le Chrétien contre le Musulman. Poussé dans ses derniers rétranchements par les nouvelles institutions et par les garanties dont on a voulu entourer l'œuvre de la justice, l'esprit de l'Islamisme a dû prendre des détours pour rendre ces institutions et ces garanties illusoires. Si le juge qui prononce la sentence peut être un Chrétien, le bras qui l'exécute est, dans tous les cas, celui d'un Musulman.

La Sublime Porte, on serait mal venu à le contester aujourd'hui, a fait preuve de bonne volonté. Mais elle a promis l'impossible. Abstraction faite de tout ce qui constitue et protége l'égalité politique, une autorité Musulmane ne saurait, sans mentir à sa religion, admettre et pratiquer deux choses: la liberté de conscience et la justice distributive: ces deux fonctions essentielles de tout gouvernement.

La liberté de conscience, en Turquie, ne signifie que la liberté du Chrétien de se faire Musulman. Jamais une autorité Musulmane ne tolérera et n'a toléré la conversion au Christianisme d'un Musulman. On ne peut citer un seul exemple d'une pareille conversion qui ait été tolérée. Le principe de la liberté de conscience n'est applicable qu'aux différentes Eglises Chrétiennes dans leurs relations entre elles. Il en est de même de la justice distributive. La religion n'exerce aucune influence, si ce n'est par les lois qui en font partie intégrante, dans l'administration de la justice lorsqu'il s'agit de Chrétiens entre eux; mais le Musulman qui lèse un Chrétien sera

toujours privilégié devant la justice, qui n'admet et n'admettra que le témoignage des Musulmans.

Ces deux ordres de faits, dans lesquels éclate l'esprit d'exclusivisme dont toute autorité Musulmane est imprégnée par cela même qu'elle est essentiellement une autorité religieuse, n'ont été cités que pour faire mieux ressortir les effets d'un système que tout fonctionnaire Musulman est forcé de suivre à cause du caractère dont il est revêtu et dont se ressentent ses relations journalières avec ses administrés, fût-il lui-même personnellement le plus éclairé et le mieux intentioné.

On serait injuste d'accuser les hommes. On se trouve en face d'une impossibilité. L'action puissante de l'Europe s'y est heurtée; le patriotisme et la sagesse des hommes d'Etat de la Turquie elle-même y ont échoué. On peut le dire hardiment, de nouvelles réformes seraient de nouveaux subterfuges et de nouvelles complications. Elles n'offriraient jamais une solution.

Si l'esprit d'exclusivisme des autorités Musulmanes est un fait patent, incontestable, fatal; s'il est dans la nature des choses; s'il n'est pas susceptible d'amendement; s'il est l'esprit de la religion Musulmane elle-même; et si cette religion est le "crédo" politique de tout fonctionnaire Musulman, étant donné le caractère théocratique du Gouvernement, il en résulte que la question des Chrétiens en Turquie qui, comme il a été dit plus haut, est elle-même le côté irritant de la grande question d'Orient, ne saurait trouver sa solution que dans un changement des conditions de la co-existence des Chrétiens avec les Musulmans.

Une autorité Chrétienne peut seul pratiquer l'égalité. Seule elle peut assurer la justice. Seule, elle peut appliquer la liberté de conscience. Elle doit donc remplacer l'autorité Musulmane partout où il y a agglomération de Chrétiens. Dans ce cas se trouvent presque toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, et, en Asie, l'Arménie et la Cilicie.

C'est cette solution que viennent, à leur tour, solliciter les Arméniens de la Turquie.

Non seulement ils croient avoir un droit égal aux autres populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie à la sollicitude des Puissances Européennes, mais ils croient aussi que la régularisation de leur sort est désormais un des éléments indispensables de la solution de la question d'Orient.

Ayant perdu leur indépendance depuis cinq siècles, une partie des Arméniens fuyant devant la persécution des hordes barbares qui envahissaient l'Arménie, s'est disséminée sur toute la surface de la terre; mais une grande partie est restée attachée au sol natal où elle a su garder, avec ses autels, le culte de ses souvenirs nationaux. Plus de 2,000,000 d'Arméniens peuplent les Provinces de l'Arménie Majeure et de la Petite Arménie. Encore aujourd'hui ils sont environnés de hordes sauvages qui ne sont pas Turques, mais qui sont Musulmanes et qui, impunément depuis des siècles, pillent, violent, et massacrent. Si les Bulgares et les Grecs ont souffert dans la Turquie d'Europe, les Arméniens en Asie ont doublement souffert à cause de la présence de ces mêmes hordes sauvages et à cause aussi de l'absence de tout Gouvernement tant soit peu sérieux et du contrôle de l'Europe. On peut dire que ce qui n'a été qu'un fait périodique en Roumélie, est l'état normal en Arménie; et ce peuple, pour lequel le plus grand poëte Anglais a pu rendre ce témoignage que "de tous les peuples de la terre il est peut-être celui dont les annales sont le moins souillées de crimes," voit journellement, en plein 19me siècle, ses foyers brisés, son honneur souillé, et ses autels profanés! Les nombreux et volumineux rapports dont le Patriarcat Arménien a inondé, depuis dix ans, les bureaux de la Sublime Porte, et qui ont été traduits et publiés en Europe, en font foi.

Les Arméniens sont peut-être de tous les Chrétiens d'Orient ceux qui, depuis la guerre de Crimée, et en face des promesses solennellement faites, se sont laissé aller à l'espérance. Ils ont voulu espérer, tant qu'il s'est trouvé en Europe et parmi les Turcs eux-mêmes, des hommes qui ont espéré. Et pendant tout ce temps ils ont tenu à n'apporter quant à eux aucune entrave, aucun embarras au Gouvernement. Ils peuvent le dire tout haut, la Sublime Porte n'a eu à enregistrer à leur charge le moindre acte de sédition. Leurs meilleurs enfants l'ont secondée dans toutes ses tentatives d'amélioration et de réformes. Ils assistent aujourd'hui à la déroute de toutes les espérances.

Mais, ils ont foi dans leur avenir, et ils conservent l'espoir de voir, pour eux-mêmes, de meilleurs jours sous le régime administratif qu'ils demandent qui seul peut les sauver, et qui, seul aussi, peut sauver l'Orient de futures et graves complications. La sollicitude de la Russie s'est déjà étendu sur eux. Cette sollicitude ne peut qu'être partagée par les autres Puissances Européennes.

Qu'arriverait-il si les Arméniens étaient laissés comme par le passé sous l'administration des fonctionnaires Musulmans?

Leur condition s'aggraverait! A toutes les causes d'oppression viendra se joindre la recrudescence de fanatisme que la guerre actuelle, entreprise à la suite de la Conférence de Constantinople et au nom des Chrétiens, a propagée dans toutes les classes de la population Musulmane. D'un autre côté, les Musulmans fanatiques de la Turquie d'Europe s'en vont et s'en iront en Asie. Ils y apporteront leur haine inassouvie.

Et tandis que les Arméniens se verront en deçà des nouvelles possessions de la Russie, voués à la persécution et à la ruine; à côté d'eux, sur le territoire Russe nouvellement annexé, ceux qui partageaient hier encore leur sort, commenceront à mener une nouvelle vie, sous l'égide des lois et sous un Gouvernement Chrétien.

Les Arméniens de la Turquie ne supporteraient pas cet état de choses.

Ils sont loin de se livrer aux idées d'ambition politique. C'est qu'ils demandent c'est d'avoir dans l'Arménie de Turquie une organisation Chrétienne autonome, entourée des mêmes garanties que celles du Liban, c'est d'être administrés à la faveur de ce régime par des fonctionnaires Arméniens, qui pourraient tenir la balance égale entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens, et de rester comme ils l'ont toujours été les fidèles sujets du Sultan.

Ils le demandent au nom de tout ce qu'ils ont souffert, au nom de leurs intérêts les plus vitaux; ils le demandent aussi au nom de la paix de l'Orient, et au nom de l'intérêt qu'a l'Europe à une solution définitive de la question d'Orient.

No. 135.

Mr. Stanhope to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 6.)

(Secret.) *India Office, May 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM directed by Viscount Cranbrook to forward herewith, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, copy of a letter which has been received at this Office from the War Office, on the subject of a purchase of arms said to have been made on Russian account in Italy, together with copy of a telegram which has been sent to the Resident at Aden.

Lord Cranbrook would be glad to be furnished, in due course, with any further information which may be received on this subject; and he would suggest that Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, who, it is understood, has a copy of the Indian Cypher Code, should be instructed to communicate to the Resident at Aden any particulars with which it may seem desirable that that officer should be made acquainted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Viscount Cranbrook to the Resident at Aden.

India Office, May 6, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

REPORTS have been received of large purchase of arms at Genoa by Russian officers, said to be consigned to Alexandria; ultimate destination unknown, but may pass down Red Sea in American ships, or otherwise. Be vigilant, and report anything suspicious. Instruct officer at Perim in same sense. Expect further information from Consul-General in Egypt.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Mr. Thompson to Sir L. Mallet.

(Secret.) *War Office, May 4, 1878.*

Sir,

I AM directed by Secretary Colonel Stanley to state that he has been informed through the Foreign Office that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome had reported by telegraph on the 27th ultimo that a Russian Colonel had proceeded to Genoa with the object of receiving 5,000 Vetterli rifles, and that Sir A. Paget had further reported on

the 1st instant that, as he was informed, these arms had been duly delivered to this Russian officer at Genoa, and had been consigned to a merchant at Alexandria.

Colonel Stanley thinks that it would be desirable to have the ship containing these arms watched for at Aden, Perim, and Ormuz, in case it should arrive at either of these places, and he would be glad if the Secretary of State for India in Council would give the necessary telegraphic instructions accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 136.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 35.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 5, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Genoa asks if he may spend 100 or 200 fr., if necessary, for obtaining information respecting shipment of arms, &c. He thinks that no ship has been taken up or treated for as yet in Genoa.

No. 137.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 5, 1878.*

THE Austrian and Hungarian Ministers, after many conferences, are believed to have come to an understanding on the conditions of a compromise upon the financial questions respecting which there has been so much controversy and which have delayed the renewal of the pact.

No. 138.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 433.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, despatch received to-day from Vice-Consul Brophy of 26th ultimo states that 1,000 men of Imperial Guard were landed at Bourgas on the 26th ultimo, and were being sent on to Adrianople. About 8,000 or 10,000 more men were expected.

No. 139.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May 5, 1878, 8 P.M.*

PRINCE MILAN continues to be guided solely by Russian counsels, but the country and some of his Ministers could perhaps be induced to observe neutrality, in case of a renewal of war, if a clear understanding could be come to with Austria as to the position to be assigned to this Principality in future. Certainly Austria can, if she chooses, prevent Servia from taking any hostile steps.

No. 140.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

Bucharest, May 6, 1878.

Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is from Captain Gill:—

"Movements of Russian troops mentioned in telegram of 3rd May are reported to be an attempt of the Russians to place part of 11th Corps across Pitesti-Bucharest

railway to cut off communications of Roumanian army with the capital. Under these circumstances, 12th Corps will probably cross from Rustchuk to Giurgevo."

No. 141.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

Athens, May 5, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRIME MINISTER requested me to-day to inform your Lordship that there are large numbers of refugees from Epirus and Thessaly in Greece; that they are afraid to return to their homes without guarantees for their safety; that they may become a source of financial detriment to the Kingdom, and that they may endeavour to foster the insurrection, and thus compromise the Greek Government with Her Majesty's Government, who might say that, notwithstanding the assurances to discourage the insurrection, they were encouraging it. His Excellency suggested that the Turkish soldiers should be confined to the forts, and he complained that the Pasha in Thessaly refused to send away Bashi-Bazouks. I asked him to let me know the number of refugees, and to advise them to return to their homes, and I expressed the hope that this was not going to be the prelude to further insurrection, and I added that I did not think that the Porte would agree to confine its troops to the forts.

Above sent to Constantinople.

No. 142.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.— (Received May 6.)

Athens, May 5, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Consul at Smyrna informs me that the five persons mentioned in my telegrams of the 1st and 2nd instant arrived there on the 2nd instant without passports, that they obtained passports from the German Consul, and left for Constantinople yesterday. It appears that they came to Athens from Constantinople.

Sent to Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

No. 143.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 5, 1878.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes me to suggest that if Porte could by any means obtain money due to them from the Danube Commission or an advance upon it, it might be applied towards bringing back to Bosnia the refugees now in Austria, thus removing one of the reasons given for an Austrian occupation of that province. I have mentioned this to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 144.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 108. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, May 6, 1878.

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports that Captain Semitchkin started about three weeks ago for New York and San Francisco to buy vessels for Russian Government. He took drafts for four and a-half million dollars with him.

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 135. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 6, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 131, I have received from the Sultan the report submitted to Turkish Ministers of the interview between Turkish Ministers and General Todleben on Saturday last. It appears from it that, whilst Shumla is to be evacuated at once, General Todleben proposes that a part of fortifications of Varna should be occupied by Russian troops, who will be in equal proportion to number of Turkish troops in the place. It was further proposed that a military and a civil delegate should be sent to Batoum to prevent bloodshed, should the Mussulman population be disposed to resist its surrender, and to carefully examine the position of affairs, and to act (one group undecypherable). No decision was taken on either of these questions.

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 6, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY now proposes to Porte that the refugees should return to Bosnia, accompanied by Austrian troops, the number not stated, who will remain until refugees are settled and proper measures are taken to ensure their protection. The Porte is to provide them with the means of rebuilding the houses, and of resuming their agricultural labours. If it has not the necessary money, additional help to procure it. Count Zichy returns next Friday, with full instructions on this matter. Porte, suspicious of Austrian designs, is unwilling to agree to this proposal. I should be glad if your Lordship would instruct me what I should say if my advice is asked.

No. 147.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 6, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 135, Military Council, to which proposed arrangement for evacuation of Shumla was referred, has reported that as it would be of great advantage to Russia, Turkey should demand, as a corresponding concession, the liberty to reoccupy Bujuk Tchekmedje lines. This proposal has been made to General Todleben. I understand that General Todleben is not satisfied with present position of Russian troops, either from a strategical or sanitary point of view, and is withdrawing them towards Tchataldja. It has been decided that no part of fortification of Varna shall be given up to Russia. Commissioners will be sent to Batoum to pacify the Lazes, but there is no intention of surrendering it.

No. 148.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.)

Athens, May 6, 1878.

FOLLOWING figures received to-day from Consuls in Thessaly, dated Larnaca, 3rd instant:—

"We returned last night from Carlitza, after a very satisfactory interview on the 1st instant, with twenty-three principal insurgent Chiefs at the village of Loutros, in Agrapha Mountains. Although many of Chiefs evince strong disinclination to abandon the cause, after long discussion, and on receiving assurances from us that by acceding to the English advice the Hellenic cause will not be injured, and that England will make eventual endeavour to secure to Greece full and favourable hearing

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at Congress, moderate counsels prevailed, and they unanimously agreed to retire with their bands to their homes, on condition that reasonable delay is given for communication with other unarmed detachments in Thessaly and Province of Salonica.

"They confide in our taking proper measures with Turkish authorities for amnesty and security of lives and property of Christians returning to their homes. Rejib Pasha, acting on our suggestion, has ordered troops to continue to abstain from hostile movements pending further orders from Porte.

"We propose following:—

"Full and unconditional amnesty to insurgents, twenty days from 1st instant, for withdrawal of all the bands to their homes. Turkish irregular troops to be withdrawn from provinces; strict prohibition to Turkish and Christian inhabitants arming.

"Prisoners implicated directly or indirectly in insurrection to be immediately liberated, those of Hellenic nationality to be delivered to Greek Consuls for conveyance to Greece; any bands refusing to withdraw within above period to be treated as outlaws; one year's remission of taxes to Christian and Turkish villages and farms.

"Greek and Turkish Governments to give every facility for recovery and restoration of stolen cattle and other property to their owners.

"For facilitating pacification we urge administration separately of Thessaly from Epirus.

"Insurgent Chiefs have sent messengers to detachments in Mount Olympus to inform them of their resolution to retire, and urgently praying that a British man-of-war should go to Catharina, in the Gulf of Salonica, to take them to Greece.

"They number about 160. We promised to submit their request to our Government. So may 'Falcon' go there for that purpose? It is very desirable that those detachments should retire by land.

"Please telegraph answer to Vaco, where we shall return on Sunday, the 5th instant."

Consuls have sent similar telegram to Constantinople: May Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" bring away detachments of insurgents from Mount Olympus?

No. 149.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878, 6·15 P.M.*
(Secret.)

PRIME MINISTER's suggestion that he should make an alliance with Greece should not be discouraged, but it will be well to ascertain cautiously whether he is disposed in Congress to assent to any rectification of frontier in favour of Greece. Of course you will not commit Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

No. 150.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878, 6·15 P.M.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 428 of the 4th instant, I request that you will inform Messrs. Blunt and Merlin that I have learnt with great satisfaction the successful result of their mission, and that I entirely approve the manner in which they have conducted the negotiations.

No. 151.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878, 6·35 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 431 of the 4th instant, I have to state to you that no difficulty has been offered by England in the negotiations for the simultaneous withdrawal of the British fleet and the Russian army, and Her Majesty's Government made a proposal last Wednesday in strict conformity with the suggestions made to them from Berlin.

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878.*

IF Count Andrassy should renew his question about assistance in rising a loan from here, say that the Government, after careful examination, can find no mode in which it would be possible for them, however well disposed, to assist Austrian credit, except by a guarantee, and a guarantee even if Count Andrassy proposed it now, which he does not, is never offered by Parliament except to allies who are in arms on our side.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878.*

SCHOUVALOFF informs me that Beust is saying he has been authorized to propose a Bulgarian frontier, which may be described roughly as that of the 42nd parallel. This is unfounded; he has made no offer to me at all. I imagine these reports are set about to frighten Russia into accepting the line to the Gulf of Rondina, which will not suit us at all.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878.*

CONSUL at Gonca may spend amount referred to in your telegram No. 35.

No. 155.

Lord Tenterden to Sir J. Stokes.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you copies of the telegraphic correspondence, as marked in the margin,* together with a copy of a despatch from Colonel Siborne, which has reference to a desire, which has been communicated to Mr. Layard, on the part of the Porte, to apply towards supporting the Mussulman refugees the balance due to Turkey from the chest of the Danube Commission, after setting aside the amount which it is bound under the Treaty of San Stefano to apply to the reopening of the navigation of the river, &c.; and I am to request that you will take these papers into your consideration and favour Lord Salisbury with any observations you may have to offer thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

P.S.—Since the preceding letter was written a further telegram has been received from Mr. Layard, stating that the Porte is in urgent need of the money due to them from the Danube Commission, or an advance upon it, and I am to request that you will inform Lord Salisbury whether, in your opinion, it would be possible to advance to the Porte any money on account of the Danube Commission.

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* To Consul Sanderson, April 23; Consul Sanderson, April 24; Mr. Layard, No. 419, April 30; Colonel Siborne, No. 20, April 24, 1878.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 156.

Colonel Mansfield to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 77. Political.)

Bucharest, May 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the report of Captain Gill and Mr. Ross, giving an account of the unjustifiable treatment to which they have been subjected at the hands of the Russian authorities, on the occasion of their recent excursion to Giurgevo.

The Roumanian Prefect would appear to have conducted himself with much firmness and energy, and I have expressed my warm acknowledgment to M. Cesaltineano for the determined manner in which M. Caramanliu extended his protection to the above gentlemen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Captain Gill and Mr. Ross to Colonel Mansfield.

Bucharest, May 1, 1878.

Sir,

WE have the honour to bring to your notice the conduct of the Russian authorities at Giurgevo.

We arrived at Bucharest as military tourists, anxious to visit the battle-fields of Bulgaria, and at Bucharest called on General Cherkersoff, the Russian officer in command of the line of communications.

That officer informed us that it was with much regret that he could not permit us to proceed without permission received from San Stefano, for which he said he would telegraph.

We informed General Cherkersoff that we should go to Giurgevo, and there await the reply to his telegram.

General Cherkersoff particularly requested us to call on General Belsku as soon as possible after our arrival at Giurgevo. He also begged us not to attempt to pass the Danube without permission, and added that of course as long as we remained north of the Danube we could go where we liked, see what we could, and that no Russian authorities could interfere with us, for we should be on Roumanian territory.

We arrived at Giurgevo at about 1 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday the 27th April. Whilst standing in the waiting room at the railway station a Russian captain of gendarmerie, whose name we subsequently learned was Captain Sperbetch, came up to us and asked us our names. The request was made with sufficient politeness to justify our complying with it, and we gave him our cards.

We drove to our hotel, and almost immediately afterwards called on General Belsku. He was at home, and received us with extreme politeness, but feigned ignorance of our wishes and objects.

We explained them, and, at his request, gave him our *paroles d'honneur* not to attempt to cross the Danube without permission.

Through a friend at Bucharest we had obtained the assistance of a dragoman who spoke Roumanian and Russian, and the next morning, Sunday, the 28th April, we went out for a drive.

We went to Slobigia, and passing one of the batteries the Russians had recently constructed, we naturally went to see it, but were warned off by a Russian sentry.

We then continued our drive, and turning our backs to the Danube made for Vieru.

We had not proceeded far when a carriage with two Russian non-commissioned officers of gendarmerie drove up and called us to halt.

As they were armed with swords and pistols, and were in the faster carriage of the two, we complied.

They said we had given our paroles to General Belskû that we would not leave Giurgevo.

We replied that it was not true.

They said they had orders to take us back.

We said we could not recognize any Russian authorities in Roumania.

They declined to discuss the political situation, and contented themselves with asserting their intention to stop us going any further. One of them placed himself at the heads of our horses.

It was clear that force was the only argument the gendarmes understood.

We therefore submitted, but insisted that the gendarmes should take us at once to General Belskû.

The gendarmes agreed at once, and we drove to Giurgevo.

Arrived opposite our hotel, the gendarmes refused to fulfil their part of the contract, and said we could find General Belsku by ourselves.

We did so.

General Belskû was even more polite than he had been the day before.

We were rather anxious lest he should have thought we had given our words not to leave Giurgevo, for his French was not very good, and we thought he might have misunderstood us.

He declared that this was not the case; he had perfectly understood that we had only promised not to cross the Danube.

He said he was very sorry for what had happened, that it was all a mistake, and that we must treat it as a joke and laugh at it.

We asked him to give us a written paper to protect us from any further assaults on the part of the gendarmerie.

He said that the gendarmerie was not under his command; that it was a different section; that even he himself was afraid of it.

He nevertheless gave us his *parole d'honneur* that henceforth we should not be molested by the gendarmerie as long as we did not attempt to cross the Danube.

In saying that the gendarmerie was not under his control he told an untruth.

Early the next morning (Monday, the 29th April) Captain Gill gave our dragoman two letters to take to the post.

He shortly returned, saying they had been taken by force from him by two Russian gendarmes.

We got into a carriage intending to find General Belskû; but we understood that he had gone to Bucharest. We then thought we would try and find Captain Sperbofch; but the gendarmes became somewhat violent, and, as we could not ascertain his address, we determined to seek the protection of the Roumanian authorities, and ordered the coachman to drive to the Prefecture.

One of the gendarmes tried to hold the horses.

He failed in this.

He tried to get on to the front seat inside our carriage. We at once put up our back, and we believe that one of them came in contact with his person.

Foiled again, as the carriage moved on he got up behind with his feet on the axle, holding on to the hood.

There was no one at the Prefecture. M. Caramanli, the Prefect of the district, was at Bucharest.

M. Yepuresti, the President du Comité, was at his private house. The dragoman was afraid the coachman had lost his nerves; we therefore went on foot, guided by an attendant of the Prefecture.

M. Yepuresco was in bed, but he at once got up, and, after having heard the story, begged us to remain in his house. He sent for the Roumanian Captain of gendarmerie, and leaving us under his protection, he at once went out and took the most active measures.

The Russian forces outside the house was increased by more gendarmes and some soldiers.

An armed party of Roumanian soldiers under an officer was marched into the courtyard; they had loaded rifles, and had received orders to fire if violence was attempted.

After some time Captain Sperbetch (the Russian Captain of Gendarmerie) entered with another officer, to act as interpreter. Captain Sperbetch could talk nothing but Russian.

The manners of Captain Sperbetch were bad; he sat down in the house of M. Yepuresti as if it were his own, and helped himself unasked to cigarettes.

He asked us if we had passports. We said "Yes." He asked if we would show them to him. We replied "No." We demanded an explanation of these extraordinary state of affairs.

He replied that we had assaulted his gendarmerie, and that, therefore, we had been arrested.

We said that that was not true. He then said we had asked two Russian soldiers how we could get across the Danube, and that we had been arrested purely out of kindness to ourselves and to prevent our crossing to the other side of the river, where we should certainly get into trouble.

We said that this also was untrue. Finally, he said we had been arrested because he had received orders from Bucharest to do so.

We were not in a position to convict him of a third untruth.

In the meantime, M. Yepurescu had been taking the most active measures, and had been in telegraphic communication with Bucharest.

He was shortly relieved from his responsibility by the arrival of M. Caramanli, the Prefect of the district.

The manners of M. Caramanli were full of dignity and firmness. He protested against the outrage committed on the Roumanian authorities.

Captain Sperbetch commenced with a bullying, blustering manner, and asked the Prefect in what capacity he meddled with his (Captain Sperbetch's) affair.

"As Prefect," replied M. Caramanli. A long conversation continued in Russian, for M. Caramanli had served during the Crimean war in the Russian army.

The manners of Captain Sperbetch gradually changed, he ceased his bluster, and ultimately made some sort of excuse.

He produced Captain Gill's letters from his pocket, and said he was going to take them to General Cherkersoff at Bucharest.

In the course of the conversation he had given us to understand that General Bilskii—whose *parole d'honneur* had been given us that we should not be molested—had gone to Bucharest.

General Bilskii was in his house at Giurgevo all the time, and must have been kept accurately informed of the proceedings.

Before leaving, Captain Sperbetch gave his word of honour that we should not be further annoyed.

The promise was kept, for the next day we drove to Fratesti, in the morning of Tuesday, the 30th April.

We left Giurgevo for Bucharest in the evening of the same day, Tuesday, the 30th April.

M. Caramanli was seriously afraid that the Russians would attempt to possess themselves of us by force; he therefore, as well as M. Yepurescu, accompanied us to Bucharest.

At the last station before arriving at Bucharest, Captain Sperbetch got into the railway carriage. He took Captain Gill's two letters to the Prefect, M. Caramanli.

One of them had been cut open; Captain Sperbetch said that this had been done by General Cherkersoff. We believe that Captain Sperbetch ended by apologizing in a very abject manner, but as his conversation was in Russian we could not understand it.

In conclusion, we wish to bring to your notice the exceeding kindness with which we have been treated by the Roumanian authorities.

At Giurgevo there are but 150 Roumanian soldiers, and there is a whole Russian division in the town. Yet M. Caramanli never hesitated for one moment as to his line of conduct. He met the barbarous bluster of the Russian captain with a dignity and firmness that may serve as an example to all, and of which not only his country but all civilization may be proud.

Thoroughly understanding the Russian character, he opposed brute force by moral courage, and never was victory more complete.

Should you have an opportunity of doing so, we beg that you will express to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the deep sense of gratitude we feel towards M. Caramanli, and towards the Roumanian Government, of which he is the fitting representative.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM GILL, *Captain, Royal Engineers.*
JOHN ROSS, *Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards.*

No. 157.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 25. Political.)

My Lord, *Odessa, May 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here this afternoon of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

Official measure were taken to try to secure a popular reception; the streets through which he would pass were designated; the town was decorated by order, but though some slight curiosity was shown, there was a complete and, in my opinion, marked absence of popular enthusiasm.

His Imperial Highness leaves this evening for St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 158.

Mr. R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Tunis, May 1, 1878.*

BE it from motives of jealousy, national rivalry, or from other causes, some foreign residents have taken advantage of passing events in Turkey to create unfavourable impressions in the minds of the Mussulman population of this Regency, in respect to the action of Her Majesty's Government with reference to those events.

With a view to correct those impressions, which were calculated to lessen our prestige in this country, I have deemed it proper to cause an Arabic translation of the Circular which your Lordship was pleased to address on the 1st April, 1878, to Her Majesty's representatives at foreign Courts, to be published in the Tunisian gazette "El Rehd," together with a summary of the British forces and certain details respecting the opulence of England, as the former were designedly represented as very limited in number in comparison with the military resources of other Powers.

The effect produced by this publication has been a most favourable one, inasmuch as it has reassured the Tunisian Government and the natives that Her Majesty's Government continue to employ their friendly good offices on behalf of the Sultan, who is considered by them as their "Imam," or Sovereign Pontiff. In this latter capacity, notwithstanding his recent misfortunes and the deprivation of a portion of his territories, he will never cease to exercise paramount influence over the Mahommedan world, whose religious precepts enjoin them to obey and follow the "Imam" so long as he does not deviate from the law of which he is the representative and protector.

It is on this account, and in order to counteract, as far as it is in my power, a feeling very much akin to this disappointment, that I have deemed it expedient to adopt the above mentioned course, of which I trust your Lordship will approve.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 159.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 7.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, May 6, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's ship "Lifley" has been prepared to proceed to the Pacific to take the place of the "Nereus" as storeship at Coquimbo, where the latter has been stationed for many years.

The "Lifley" is now ready to leave for the Pacific, but before she is dispatched my Lords would be glad to be informed whether, in the event of war occurring with Russia, it may be expected that the Government of Chile would object to Her Majesty's

ships being supplied with stores and provisions from the "Liffey," among the former being included ordnance stores and ammunition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 160.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 7.)

Admiralty, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

IN reply to your letter of this day, marked Immediate, requesting that Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" might be dispatched to Cathrina, in the Gulf of Salonica, for the purpose of removing the principal insurgents to Greece, under an arrangement made by Messrs. Blunt and Merlin, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that their Lordships have received a telegram from Admiral Hornby, dated the 4th instant, from Therapia, in which he states that, by Her Majesty's Ambassador's request, he has directed Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" to embark Greek insurgents, under the superintendence of Consul Blunt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. M. PRIMROSE, *pro Sec.*

No. 161.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 7.)

Admiralty, May 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated the 6th May, 1878.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic) *Ismid, May 6, 1878, 11·40 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

HAVE returned to Ismid.

Baker Pasha informs me Turkish army at Constantinople only consists of 40,000 effective men, and that the position is not tenable with that force.

Also that the Russians have promised the Turks to retire to Tchataldja if Shumla is evacuated immediately.

By negotiating separately with Turks, and knavery, Russians will in all events obtain double pay for withdrawing their army, viz., withdrawal of British squadron and possession of Shumla; but Russians are bringing reinforcements of 60,000 men into Roumelia, which will raise their forces there to 200,000 men; and I entirely disbelieve their sincerity when they offer to withdraw to Adrianople; and I fear Constantinople will be lost, if some energetic action is not taken by us without delay.

No. 162.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

Athens, May 6, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday respecting the refugees in Greece, I have requested Consuls Merlin and Blunt to try to persuade them to return to their homes, and I have requested Greek Government to send orders to their local authorities to cooperate with Consuls with this object.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 163.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

Bucharest, May 6, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is from Captain Gill and Lieutenant Ross:—

"Telegram sent yesterday confirmed in every particular.

"One of the divisions is also coming from Kishenef towards Roumania. Roumanian military power would become much more powerful by the acquisition of arms and munitions of war, in which they are deficient. We are starting on another short expedition.

"Information of the war must be at Bucharest sixty hours before it is declared, or we shall be prisoners; telegrams take ten hours from London to Bucharest."

No. 164.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

Galatz, May 6, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 1st, British Commissioner has to-day handed me the following:—

"My opinion is, that considering the state of our finances, it is impossible for us to make advances to the Porte. My colleagues of the Executive Committee desire, before giving an opinion, to consult their Governments, or at least to submit question to general meeting summoned for the 11th instant."

No. 165.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 427.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Athens:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday will you let me know what guarantees Greek Prime Minister suggests for the safety of refugees, if they return to Thessaly? Porte has proclaimed a general amnesty, and instructions have been sent to-day to the Governors of Epirus and Thessaly to extend it specially to the refugees in Greece. I find Porte disposed to do anything to meet reasonable wishes of the Greek Government in this matter. The Bashi-Bazouks are being withdrawn as fast as possible."

No. 166.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 430.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday your Lordship must have misapprehended the meaning of my telegram No. 431. What I meant was that Porte having agreed to evacuate Shumla, it hoped that by so doing it and facilitated negotiations for simultaneous withdrawal, and that Her Majesty's Government would be successful in effecting it. I had no reason whatever to think that Her Majesty's Government were offering difficulties to them.

No. 167.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 431.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Elliott, dated yesterday:—

"Laz delegates forwarded following telegram:—

"'Contrary to law of nations, Russians without heeding Turkish authorities, and

two battalions invaded Livana, and similarly occupied village of Buko in Upper Ajara, sending under fool inhabitants of district in order to reach Batoum. Relying on law of nations and on promises of Porte we (?) offered no resistance; but course of events shows that Russians will take possession by all means of all towns and villages. Confiding in God's help and Treaty of 1856, and in British protection, all the populations are under arms, and occupy different positions to oppose Russian advance. We beg earnestly for the assistance which we hope to receive on land and at sea.'"

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 442.) *Therapia, May 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Biliotti, dated Trebizond, May 7:—

"I received the following telegram, dated Batoum, 6th instant, 6 P.M., signed 'Johannes Pilayon, delegate of the Christians of Livannah':—

"While living in peace with our Mussulman neighbours at Livannah, our beloved country, a few days ago, Russian soldiers, under the command of General Koumaroff, unexpectedly invaded our town against the law of nations and [justice?]. Owing to existing peace, offered no resistance. The Russian soldiers and their officers trod under foot the honour of our families, there being no longer any security for life, property, and honour, we are bewildered. In the name of Christianity you can interfere on our behalf. Save us from Russian oppression. Having shut up our houses, abandoned our country, our lands, and other property, we proceed with our children and wives to other parts of the Ottoman dominions, it being beyond doubt that similar acts cannot be tolerated by any nation, and in order to protect our honour against the conduct of the Russians. I beg you in the name of the whole community of Armenia, of which I am the delegate, to bring their [acts] to the knowledge of your Government through Her Majesty's Ambassador."

No. 169.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 443.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Fawcett, dated yesterday:—

"Closed investigation and settled report with Pasha; left this evening for Constantinople by Piraeus. Success attending Consuls' negotiations for amnesty seem to allay animosity on both sides."

No. 170.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

Stockholm, May 7, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND that the Russian Government have chartered the Swedish merchant steamer "Drottning Lova," left last night for Baltish Port. It is believed she will be sent to America on some such job as the "Cimbria."

They are also in treaty for another large steamer.

No. 171.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 124.) *Vienna, May 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

IT is understood that the Austrian Government is taking measures to realise half the 60,000,000 florins for which they obtained the credit.

No. 172.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, I have received the following, dated yesterday, from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna:—

"Prince Oldenbourg was one of the party of five. He was accompanied by two Russian engineer officers, and appeared to take especial interest in harbour and railroads of Smyrna."

Sent to Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

No. 173.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

Galatz, May 7, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN vessel arrived from Odessa last night with torpedoes, which she is unloading at Galatz.

No. 174.

Consul Annesley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

Hamburgh, May 7, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

REPORTED to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin (? on the) 23rd, rumoured purchase of one or two Hamburgh ocean steamers by the Russian Government. Will watch "Hammonia" sharply.

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1878, 3·35 P.M.*
(Secret.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 436 of the 6th instant, Safvet has been telling Zichy that Porte only hesitates about ceding Bosnia for fear of English disapproval. Any advice you give in this direction will certainly be used in this manner, and for sake of Porte itself, such a suspicion as tending to repel Austria is undesirable. If your advice is asked, you should point that hitherto any disaster happening to Porte has resulted from disregarding English advice, and that England is very scrupulous of giving advice which may lead Porte into danger; that Porte cannot resist Austrian occupation of Bosnia if Austria insists, but that possibly concession in this matter might be made conditional on Austria assisting Porte to confine Tributary State to north of Balkans.

No. 176.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 15th (? 5th), and to Mr. Layard's of yesterday, I have, after interview with Prime Minister to-day, telegraphed to Messrs. Merlin and Blunt to go to Lamia to persuade refugees to return to their homes. Governor of Lamia will aid them in this matter.

As to guarantee, Hellenic Government will await result of these endeavours.

No. 177.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 7, 1878.*

CONSUL at San Francisco telegraphs that paddle-steamer "Great Republic," 3,800 tons, has been sold by Pacific Mail Company for unknown purpose. A large price had been offered to owners but refused, for a steamer almost completed building by Cramp, at Philadelphia. I suppose latter to be the "State of California," referred to in inclosure in my despatch No. 108, of 22nd ultimo.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 580. Secret.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1878.*

Sir,

IT appears that Safvet Pasha has stated to Count Zichy that the hesitation evinced by the Porte to cede Bosnia to Austria, proceeds solely from the fear of incurring the disapproval of Her Majesty's Government.

I should wish to point out to your Excellency that any advice you may give in this direction will certainly be used in this manner, and that such a suspicion is undesirable in the interest of the Porte itself, as tending to create in Austria a distrust of Her Majesty's Government.

Should your advice be asked by the Porte upon this matter, you should point out to them that hitherto any disaster happening to the Ottoman Empire has resulted from disregarding the advice given by this country, and that England is very scrupulous as to giving advice which may lead the Porte into danger. You may, however, state that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the Porte cannot resist the occupation of Bosnia by Austria if the latter insists upon it; but that possibly a concession by the Porte in this matter might be made conditional upon Austria assisting the Porte to confine the tributary Principality of Bulgaria to the North of the Balkans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 179.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, May 7, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing a copy of a Convention concluded between the Director-General of the Ottoman Telegraphs and the Agent of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

I am also to forward copies of two letters which have been received in this Department from the Chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company, together with a copy of the reply returned to him.

From the last document it will be seen that Mr. Layard has been instructed by telegraph to endeavour to obtain the ratification by the Sultan, without unnecessary delay, of the concession granted to the Eastern Telegraph Company.

In a telegram which was received from Mr. Layard on the 29th ultimo, his Excellency states that the Sultan was long ago prepared to ratify the concession, but that the delay rests with the Ottoman Council of State. It appears that there is no difficulty whatever about the direct line with Europe by Tenedos and Scio, but that the Eastern Telegraph Company, relying upon the pressing urgency of Her Majesty's Government, wish to have included in the same concession, a branch line between Tenedos and Salonica, in which Her Majesty's Government have no direct interest, and to which the Council of State is opposed. Mr. Layard further states that he is endeavouring to bring about an arrangement of this matter.

Since the above was written, a further telegram from Mr. Layard has reached

Lord Salisbury, which states that the Porte is ready to ratify the Telegraph Convention with the Eastern Telegraph Company for direct telegraphic communication with Europe viâ Tenedos and Scio, if the Company will agree not to include in it, but to treat separately, the line between Tenedos and Volo, which has been substituted for that between Tenedos and Salonica, also some conditions, including a monopoly of Indian messages, which are objected to by the Council of State, and require discussion.

Mr. Layard reports that the direct could be opened at once if the Company would agree to this arrangement.

The above information has been communicated in a letter to the Chairman of the Company, of this day's date, of which a copy is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 180.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Pender.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that the Sultan was long ago prepared to ratify the concession granted to the Eastern Telegraph Company which formed the subject of your letters of the 23rd ultimo, but that the delay rests with the Ottoman Council of State, who make no difficulty whatever about the direct line with Europe by Tenedos and Scio, but object to have included in the same concession a branch line between Tenedos and Salonica.

In a telegram dated the 3rd instant, Mr. Layard states the Porte is ready to ratify the Telegraph Convention with the Eastern Telegraph Company for direct telegraphic communication with Europe viâ Tenedos and Scio, if the Company will agree not to include in it, but to treat separately, the line between Tenedos and Volo, which has been substituted for that between Tenedos and Salonica, and also some conditions, including a monopoly of Indian messages, which are objected to by the Council of State, and require discussion.

Mr. Layard states that the direct line could be opened at once if the company would agree to this arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 181.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 488.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 3, 1878.*

AT an interview I had yesterday with M. de Giers (who is conducting the affairs of the Foreign Office during the illness of Prince Gortchakow), I inquired from his Excellency whether there was any foundation for a rumour which was in circulation that a summons in the form of an ultimatum had been addressed by the Imperial Government to the Porte for the immediate surrender of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, in fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano.

His Excellency replied somewhat evasively, stating that several applications, although not in the form of an ultimatum, had been addressed to the Porte for the execution of the Article of the Treaty referring to those places, and that this demand was again being made, as it was indispensable for the safety of the Russian military position.

I observed to his Excellency that considering that the Treaty of San Stefano had been violated in the first instance by the Russian advance to San Stefano, and beyond the lines of the armistice, and considering further that efforts were being now made for the meeting of an European Congress, to take into consideration the Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano, without which its validity would not be recognized by Europe, the present demand of Russia on Turkey for the immediate execution of the Treaty

were not calculated to produce a favourable impression on those Governments who were earnestly striving for a peaceful solution of the present complications, and that in my opinion, if these demands were persisted in, they would render the meeting of a Congress not only hopeless but useless.

I also referred to the difficulties which the Grand Duke Nicholas had raised to the repatriation of the Turkish prisoners of war, on the plea that at this season of the year the roads in Southern Russia were impassable, when it must be known to his Imperial Highness that the prisoners of war were interned in towns where the railways placed them in easy communication with a sea-port.

To this latter observation M. de Giers replied that the Porte had now an army of 80,000 men in and around Constantinople, and that the restoration of 100,000 Turkish prisoners—good soldiers—would prove a formidable force, which might, in certain eventualities, be directed against Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 8.*)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that to-day's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" states that his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine, in an order of the day of the 19th April, has given names to 84 torpedo launches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 183.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 8.*)

64, *Pall Mall, May 6, 1878.*

M. GENNADIUS presents his compliments to the Marquis of Salisbury, and begs to submit to his Lordship further papers referring to the state of affairs in Crete.

Inclosure in No. 183.

A M. Logotheti, Consul de Grèce, &c.

(Traduction.)
Au nom du peuple Crétois. Le Gouvernement Provisoire de Candie.

M. le Consul, *Le 19 Mars, 1878.*

DEPUIS qu'elle a cessé toutes négociations avec la Porte et qu'elle s'en est remise à la justice et à l'humanité seules des Grandes Puissances du soin de régler la question Crétoise, l'Assemblée Générale a regardé comme son devoir le plus sacré de protéger la vie des personnes sans défense, et de mettre la fortune des habitants à l'abri de toute déprédation éventuelle de la part des soldats Turcs. Pour que cette mesure, commandée par les circonstances, put être exécutée, il était indispensable de concentrer des corps de Chrétiens sur les points où, à raison de la concentration des forces Turques, le péril était plus manifeste. Cette mesure offrait, il est vrai, les inconvénients que, même dans les Etats les mieux constitués, on évite rarement quand des corps ennemis sont campés à proximité les uns des autres, c'est-à-dire, les chances de fréquentes collisions. Cela était ici d'autant plus à craindre (et on l'a vu, en effet, le 12 Février) que les nôtres étaient sans cesse provoqués par les excès, les violences et parfois les meurtres commis sur plusieurs points, et notamment à Rethymno, par les Turcs contre les Chrétiens. Mais l'Assemblée a considéré la chance d'une collision comme chose bien moins préjudiciable que les maux qu'occasionnerait une incursion de troupes Turques; elle n'a donc pas hésité à mettre à exécution la mesure dont il s'agit. Et

la preuve que les collisions sont l'effet des causes sus-énoncées et qu'elles n'ont pas eu lieu dans le but de faire du mal aux soldats Turcs, c'est que, dès qu'ils ont évacué différents lieux, qu'ils occupaient encore, tels que Vamo, Francocastello Palæochora, ils ont point été harcelés par les nôtres.

L'Assemblée Générale espérait que le conflit survenu le 12 Février n'aurait exercé aucune influence sur la politique qu'elle voudrait inaugurer et dont elle faisait mention dans ses décrits et Memorandum du 18 Février dernier, en attendant que les Grandes Puissances eussent rendu aussi leur verdict au sujet de la question Crétoise. Cette conviction de l'Assemblée Générale était encore corroborée par la proclamation datée du 22 du mois écoulé publié par Adossides Pacha et dont nous vous transmettons copie ci-joint.

Mais la ligne de conduite adoptée dernièrement de la Sublime Porte a malheureusement fait évanouir cet espoir; l'attaque inopinément par les Turcs dans le but de déloger les nôtres de leurs positions et notamment de celles qu'ils occupaient à Alikiano et qui était très-avantageux, ne peut nous laisser aucun doute sur l'intention du Gouverneur d'attaquer militairement toutes les provinces.

En présence de cette situation nouvelle, le Gouvernement Provisoire se voit forcé d'employer tous les moyens en son pouvoir pour mettre le pays à couvert des mesures violentes que le Représentant de la Porte va appliquer contre le pays.

De même que nos corps armés n'ont pas laissé les forces Turques occuper Alikiano dont ils les ont repoussées dans la journée du 12 Février, de même ils s'opposeront à des entreprises de ce genre sur tout autre point. Le peuple Crétois n'entend point permettre aux Turcs d'occuper des positions stratégiques pour de là s'élancer sur l'île et la couvrir de sang et de ruines, comme ils ont fait ici en 1866, et dernièrement en Bulgarie, en Bosnie, en Epire, en Thessalie et sur plusieurs points de l'Empire Ottoman. Il y a dix jours à peine que 300 Turcs ont fait irruption dans trois villages de Rethymno, Castello, Valsamonero, St. André, et y ont commis des meurtres et d'autres crimes en peu de temps, c'est-à-dire en attendant que les nôtres pussent se réunir et leur donner la chasse.

Le Gouvernement Provisoire est très peiné des malheurs qui menacent les habitants de l'île tant Chrétiens que Musulmans, par suite de la nouvelle tournure que les choses viennent de prendre contre toute attente. Mais il ne peut, à lui seul, prévenir ces malheurs, puisque le Représentant de la Sublime Porte tient une conduite qui pousse aux solutions extrêmes. Si les Puissances intervenaient dès-à-présent, c'eut été le seul moyen de préserver notre malheureux pays des destructions, des ravages, de l'effusion de sang qui le menacent. Nous sollicitons dès lors l'intercession de votre Gouvernement, ainsi que celle des Gouvernements des autres Puissances, en vue de l'accomplissement de cette tâche généreuse et humanitaire.

Dans l'espoir que vous voudrez bien transmettre encore la présente à votre Gouvernement et lui recommander de l'accueillir favorablement, nous vous prions, M. le Consul, d'agréer, etc.

Les Membres,
(Signé) A. METZAKIS.
CH. ISKOUTZIS.
A. MICHILDAKIS.
M. PAPADAKIS.
ST. CHANTZAKIS.

A M. A. Logothetis, Consul de Grèce, &c.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul, *Fré d'Apocorona, le 15 Mars, 1878.*

Vous trouverez sous ce pli le décret par lequel l'Assemblée Générale des Crétois a institué un Gouvernement Provisoire. En prenant cette mesure, l'Assemblée a pourvu à un besoin qui depuis longtemps se faisait impérieusement sentir. Vous n'ignorez pas que la Porte a retiré de toutes les provinces de l'île les troupes, et les autorités Ottomanes les a concentrées dans les forteresses autour d'elles, laissant ainsi le pays tout à fait dépourvu d'Administration. Depuis lors l'Assemblée Générale, légalement élu par toutes les provinces de l'île et officiellement reconnue par la Porte elle-même, s'est vue aussi chargée de la mission de maintenir l'ordre et tranquillité dans l'île, conformément à ce qui est exposé dans son memorandum du 18 Février dernier.

Ce devoir, l'Assemblée l'a rempli, vous en conviendrez, M. le Consul, en se servant de tous les moyens moraux et matériels dont elle disposait, pour garantir,

mieux qu'auparavant, l'ordre public, du maintien duquel elle croyait devoir rendre compte au pays comme à l'Europe. Mais ses travaux multiples ne lui permettaient pas de porter toute son attention sur la partie administrative de sa tâche; il lui a donc fallu former un Comité administratif spécial, composé de membres tirés de son sein et fonctionnant sous son contrôle immédiat. Ce Comité agira de concert avec quatre sous-Comités et Tribunaux établis dans les quatre parties de l'île et continuera d'être chargé de son administration jusqu'à ce que le sort de notre pays soit définitivement fixé.

Il ne nous paraît pas inutile de vous rappeler, M. le Consul, que l'Assemblée Générale restera fermement attachée aux principes proclamés dans son décret et dans son Memorandum en date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1878, elle attendra la décision des Grandes Puissances, elle évitera toute occasion de conflit avec les troupes Turques, comme elle l'a fait jusqu'à présent, sauf ce qui est arrivé le $\frac{13}{25}$ Février à la suite d'excès commis par les Turcs, mais elle se défendra par les armes, si par hasard on l'attaquait.

Convaincus que vous plaiderez auprès de votre Gouvernement en faveur de nos droits, nous vous prions, M. le Consul, de transmettre à qui il appartiendra notre présente, ainsi que le décret y annexé.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) C. DEVOYAS.
Le Vice-Président,
S. N. DANDOLAS.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
S. A. STAVROUDIS.

L'Assemblée Générale des Crétois, eu égard à la situation anormale où le pays se trouve actuellement et désireuse de contribuer à son amélioration, décrète à l'unanimité:—

1. Pour garantir la sécurité et l'ordre public un Gouvernement Provisoire est établi composé de sept membres.
2. Les actes de ce Gouvernement seront rendus au nom du peuple Crétois et conformément au décret en date du 3 Février, 1878, de cette Assemblée.
3. Le Gouvernement aura à rendre compte de ses actes à l'Assemblée.

Fait à Fré d'Apocorona, le 14 Mars, 1878.

Le Président,
(Signé) C. DEVOYAS.
Les Vice-Présidents,
S. N. DANDOLAS.
ATHANASIADIS.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
S. A. STAVROUDIS.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté à la Canée, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

(Traduction.)
Le 23 Mars, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire par le dernier courrier, le Gouverneur-Général, Adossides Pacha, avait provoqué la remise d'un placet par quelques paysans, parents de Pragoulaki, par lequel ils demandaient, consément au nom de sept villages du district de Cydonie, à faire leur soumission; mais les primats de ces villages ont protesté contre la dite demande de leurs soi-disant délégués. Cependant, le Pacha trouva dans cette démarche des faux délégués un prétexte pour rompre la trêve, dont son journal officiel, "La Crète," avait dans un article de fond contesté l'existence.

Prévoyant tout cela, j'ai tâché par différents moyens, et même en priant mon collègue d'Angleterre de s'y employer de détourner le Pacha du dessein qu'il avait conçu, mais je n'y ai pas réussi.

Les Chrétions de son entourage, voulant couvrir sa responsabilité, soutiennent qu'il avait été forcé d'agir comme il l'a fait par Osman Pacha, le Gouverneur Militaire, venu de Constantinople avec un plan de campagne pour dompter la Crète, plan élaboré au Ministère de la Guerre par l'ex-Gouverneur-Général Samih Pacha, qui remplaçait Raouf Pacha durant son absence à St. Pétersbourg.

Mardi dernier, dans l'après-midi, bon nombre de bataillons sont sortis de la forteresse, ainsi que trois pièces d'artillerie de montagne.

Dès Mercredi matin, on a su que les troupes Turques avaient attaqué les camps des Chrétions, établis à Alikiano et aux environs, afin de se rendre maîtresses de cette bourgade. Le Gouverneur Militaire disait qu'il avait ordonné cette attaque dans l'intérêt de l'honneur des troupes Impériales, puisque cette position avait été enlevée par les Chrétions dans le combat du 14 Février; il disait qu'il avait dessein de s'emparer de Lakos, de Selino, de Kissamo, et de tout le pays s'étendant jusqu'à Sphakia. Adossides Pacha disait de son côté que l'attaque avait eu lieu dans le but de protéger les Chrétiens d'Alikiano, lesquels pourtant se sont depuis longtemps retirés dans les montagnes avec leurs familles.

Des irréguliers sortis de Varypetro ont attaqué deux heures avant l'aurore la position dite Akhirospilio, située en deçà de la Rivière Platania, la troupe régulière a en même temps dirigé une attaque de front contre Akhirospilio; cinquante Chrétiens se trouvaient là, postés en éclaireurs; ces hommes ont longtemps soutenu le choc de 3,000 Turcs et ils se sont enfin retirés sur un monticule plus haut, après avoir fait essuyer des pertes sensibles aux assaillants. Le combat a duré toute la journée (Mercredi) sans que les Turcs pussent s'avancer d'un seul mètre vers la rivière, qu'il leur fallait traverser pour s'approcher d'Alikiano. Vers le soir, chacun des belligérants a réoccupé ses positions. Les irréguliers ont participé au combat depuis le matin, mais les gens qui s'y rendaient de la ville, dans l'après-midi, alors que l'attaque, tentée sans succès, avait pris fin, ont été invités à revenir sur leur pas par Osman Nouri Pacha revenant du combat. Ces agissements ont produit une grande effervescence dans la ville, car les Beys et les autres Turcs indigènes reprochent à Adossides Pacha d'avoir, rompant la trêve, commencé les hostilités et d'avoir empêché les indigènes de participer au combat. Le bruit a même couru qu'ils avaient télégraphié à la Porte se plaignant de ce Pacha.

Jeudi nous avons passé tranquillement la journée, mais le jour suivant, dans l'après-midi, un combat fut livré au faubourg de Mourinés—lequel se termina le soir—et sur la Rivière Platania. Ce combat entre Chrétiens et Turcs devint plus vif, Samedi: on se battait partout sur le Mont Malaxa jusqu'à la plaine et même à Alikiano, dans l'après-midi. Sur nos remparts et sur les toits des maisons, il y avait de nombreux spectateurs qui distinguaient sans longues-vues les évolutions des combattants. Samedi on ne savait pas quels chefs étaient, Vendredi et Samedi, à la tête des Chrétiens de Kéramo qui se sont battus près des faubourgs de la ville où l'action a été chaude et a duré jusqu'à la nuit. Nous avons su, Dimanche, que les Turcs avaient provoqué les Chrétiens de Kéramo, mais, qu'ayant essuyé de grandes pertes, ils n'avaient échappé à une destruction complète, que grâce à un bataillon d'infanterie que l'Amiral Hussein Pacha avait envoyé de la Suda, pour les dégager, car c'est au-dessus de ce port que l'on se battait.

Dans le combat engagé Mercredi à Alikiano, les chefs Chrétiens qui ont repoussé l'attaque c'étaient Hadji-Michali, avec ses Cydoniens, et les Capitaines Sélinioles, Kriaris, Krokidis, Georgakis, et d'autres. Le bruit courait que du côté d'Aghia les Chrétiens s'étaient avancés, Samedi, jusqu'aux tentes des Turcs.

Samedi matin est arrivé à la Suda un vapeur de guerre Ottoman qui transportait 60 artilleurs et 6 canons Kroup, plus 500 fantassins, pour combler les vides, produits dans les bataillons qui s'y trouvaient. Est arrivé aussi un grand paquebot du Lloyd Autrichien, provenant de Smyrne avec 5,000 kilog. de blé pour l'alimentation des troupes, pour lesquelles un voilier en avait apporté aussi 15,000 kilog.

Le même jour a été remis au Corps Consulaire le Décret ci-joint de l'Assemblée Générale et le Memorandum qui l'accompagne et où il est question de la formation d'un Gouvernement Provisoire de sept membres, composé de MM. Bardinoyani, Haudjaki, Stamataki, Mylonaki, Mikelidaki, Betzaki, et Papadaki.

Dimanche on s'est battu tout le jour à Alikiano, d'où l'on entendait même quelques coups de canon tirés par les Turcs; on entendait ces détonations sur différents points depuis le Mont Malaxa jusqu'à Alikiano. Nous ne connaissons pas le résultat des ces combats de plusieurs heures, les communications étant interrompues par suite des hostilités.

Depuis hier, le Gouverneur Militaire passe en revue des Bachi-Bazouks indigènes, au nombre de 3,000 environ; ils vont servir de troupes auxiliaires, malgré les promesses réitérées d'Adossides Pacha de ne pas employer des Bachi-Bazouks. Les fils des Beys se trouvent dans les rangs de ces miliciens. Indépendamment des ravages qui vont exercer ces irréguliers féroces, pour peu que l'on transporte ici un fils de Bey tué ou

blessé, la population Chrétienne de notre ville se trouvera exposée au fanatisme Musulman.

Samedi soir, les cris des femmes de Bahri-Bey, marchand d'huiles, ont mis toute la ville en émoi, à la réception de la nouvelle de la mort de son fils, qui combattait dans les rangs des Bachi-Bazouks.

Lundi matin, le Gouverneur Provisoire a envoyé au Corps Consulaire sa déclaration No. 26 (dont vous trouverez ci-joint copie) concernant la reprise des hostilités, et où il sollicite l'intervention des Puissances. Mes collègues, à qui on a remis une traduction Française de cet acte, vont la faire parvenir à leurs Gouvernements respectifs et leur demander des instructions. Mr. Sandwith, qui est votre doyen, n'a pas jugé à propos de convoquer une réunion du Corps Consulaire. Les Musulmans indigènes attendent l'arrivé de 50,000 kilos de blé, dont le Gouvernement Impérial va leur faire cadeau, ces Musulmans qui, depuis plusieurs mois, ayant abandonné leurs maisons, sont établis aux environs de notre ville dans la misère.

La flotte, qui manquait de charbon, en a reçu 1,200 tonneaux, transportés ici par un vapeur Anglais. Depuis Dimanche des combats d'avant-postes ont lieu chaque jour entre Chrétiens et Turcs du côté de la Rivière Platania. On transporte ici fréquemment des soldats Turcs tués ou blessés.

Avis.

Attendu que, d'après nos informations, plusieurs des habitants des districts croyant, par suite des fâcheuses événements survenues en dernier lieu, qu'il n'y a point de sécurité sur les grandes routes, n'osent pas aller aux villes pour leurs affaires.

Attendu que le Gouvernement Général de l'île n'a rien tant à cœur que d'assurer à tous les habitants sans exception les moyens de vaquer à leurs affaires et de pourvoir à leurs besoins.

Nous nous faisons un devoir de prévenir tous ceux qui veulent se rendre aux villes pour y vendre leurs produits, acheter de vivres, se procurer d'autres objets nécessaires, ou pour toute autre affaire, qu'ils peuvent y aller sans crainte et sans obstacle.

Nous croyons, en outre, devoir donner à tous cette assurance, que pour rétablir la situation normale où l'on était avant les derniers événements, nous avons pris toutes les mesures propres à garantir la sécurité des routes et celle des voyageurs.

En conséquence, ceux qui se rendent dans les villes pour leurs affaires n'ont absolument rien à craindre, et de plus que les familles qui s'étaient rétirées dans l'intérieur de l'île peuvent sans danger retourner dans leurs villages et s'installer dans leurs maisons.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance des habitants, le Gouverneur-Général les exhorte paternellement à reprendre leurs travaux et de se rendre dans les villes sans aucune appréhension, ils peuvent être sûrs que personne ne les molestera nulle part; car les autorités veilleront à la sécurité de tous et protégeront efficacement les gens qui vaquent à leurs affaires.

La Canée, le 22 Février, 1878.

Le Gouverneur-Général de Candie,
(Signé) C. ADOSSIDES.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté à la Canée au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

Le 26 Mars, 1878.

(Extrait.)

Le Gouverneur-Général Costaki Pacha est parti hier pour Héraclium et Rethymne afin de prendre quelques mesures propres à relever le prestige du pouvoir, anéanti même dans l'intérieur des places fortes, puisque les Gouverneurs d'Héraclium et de Rethymne ne peuvent, assure-t-on, contenir la multitude armée, qui, exaspérée, sort fréquemment des forteresses pour exercer des razzias et engage des combats avec les Chrétiens.

Le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Héraclium au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

(Traduction.)

M. le Ministre, *Le 28 Mars*, 1878.

Pendant toute la semaine passée les Turcs ont commis dans la campagne qui environne notre ville des crimes et des vols incroyables contre des Chrétiens inoffensifs, des voyageurs sans armes. On compte jusqu'à trente les victimes du fanatisme et de la cruauté qu'on a jusqu'à ce jour transportées à l'hôpital civil d'Héraclium. Quoique ces malheureux y soient parfaitement soignés par des Chrétiens, ils n'ont pu encore se rétablir, quelques-uns même vont très-probablement succomber.

Le Gouverneur-Général est venu à la Canée; aussitôt il a reçu la visite de l'Archevêque et des Délégués des Corporations Chrétiennes; on lui a fait des représentations au sujet de la situation vraiment désolante du pays; le Pacha leur a dit, ainsi qu'à moi, qui hier lui ai rendu visite avec mes collègues, qu'il connaissait cette situation déplorable, qu'il prendrait des mesures énergiques pour réagir contre le mal, qu'il établirait des postes militaires sur les principales routes, qu'il nommerait de nouveau un Sous-Préfet à Monofatzi, et qu'il tâcherait même si c'était possible de faire rentrer les familles Turques dans le district de Monofatzi. Je doute néanmoins qu'il puisse faire ce qu'il a dit là; ces mesures contribueraient puissamment, je le sais, au retour de l'ordre, mais les Turcs ne veulent pas s'en aller seuls; leurs chefs ne consentiront pas à ce qu'un Sous-Préfet soit renommé à Monofatzi, et à ce que les paysans Turcs s'éloignent sans leurs familles; car alors ces paysans leur susciteraient des embarras sérieux.

Hier, pour fêter la venue du Pacha, les Turcs ont blessé à Vassiliés un Archimandrite, en ont battu cinq, et ont rossé à Gazi Loutrakiotes, après les avoir dévalisés. Les communications entre la ville et ces villages sont presque interrompues pour les Chrétiens. Quand le Gouverneur-Général partira, il est impossible qu'il n'y ait pas de conflicts sanglants, maintenant surtout que les habitants des districts de Malenzi et de Temenos sont tous fournis de munitions; ces munitions leur ont été régulièrement distribuées, un petit bâteau les a, Vendredi passé, apportées, sans courir aucun risque, à Ste. Pelagia, district qui ne permet pas aux Turcs de donner carrière à leur férocité.

Extrait d'un Rapport du Vice-Consul de Grèce à Rethymne, sous la date du 26 Mars, 1878, *adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.*

La brutalité et la férocité des Musulmans ont atteint leur maximum d'intensité à Perivolia, village distant de la ville d'un quart d'heure de marche, et on a établi maintenant une poste militaire; des Turcs ont pénétré dans les églises de St. Georges et de St. Nicholas, et n'y ayant rien trouvé à enlever, ont ouvert les tombes et brisé les urnes des cadavres qu'elles renfermaient. Les habitants du dit village ont dénoncé ce crime aux autorités, mais rien n'a été fait par elles pour découvrir les profanateurs.

(Signé) PETYCHAKI.

No. 184.

Mr. Pender to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

The Eastern Telegraph Company Limited, 66, *Old Broad Street*,
London, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM in receipt of a letter from the Foreign Office this morning, dated the 7th instant, in which it is stated that the Sultan was prepared to ratify the concession granted to the Eastern Telegraph Company, securing a direct line viâ Tenedos and Scio.

There must be some misunderstanding on the part of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. The Salonica line was made *à titre gratuit* by the Ottoman Administration. The concession was approved by the Department and the former Turkish Prime Minister, and being assured it would be ratified by the Sultan, we have gone to the expense of making the cable for the Salonica line, and the ship is now lying at Malta awaiting instructions.

Since the present Turkish Prime Minister came into office, constant changes have been made in the concession, and every attempt to meet their wishes has been met by new demands. The last proposition is that we should return the 8,000*l.* we have received, lay the entire cable from Constantinople to Tenedos at our own expense, and work and maintain it, the Turks receiving their full tariff, and the Company to have such a proportion as would not even pay working expenses unless, indeed, some traffic were guaranteed.

This was the object of the "monopoly."

The Indian and Asiatic traffic is the only traffic which would flow naturally over the Company's system, the land lines being, in time of peace, obviously cheaper than submarine lines.

As the misunderstanding seems difficult to explain, we will instruct our agent at Syra, who has been so far connected with these negotiations, to proceed forthwith to Constantinople to explain our views to Her Majesty's Ambassador; and, providing he approves of such views, I would ask your Lordship kindly to urge him to use his best influence to get them carried into effect.

Our objects are:—

1. To get a direct line worked by the Company's servants with some traffic arrangement which may render it remunerative; and,

2. To obtain ratification of the permission for the landing of the cables recently laid in the interest of Her Majesty's Government—the importance of which will be obvious to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN PENDER, *Chairman.*

No. 185.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marqui of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 8, 1878.

CAPTAIN GILL and Lieutenant Ross state:—"It is reported that 14th Corps, Zimmermann's, is about to cross to Ibraila, said to be for Plocsti."

No. 186.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8, 5·7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May* 8, 1878, 4·15 P.M.

MR. ABEL, stating himself to be in communication with the Intelligence Department, requests me to communicate the following:—

"Reinforcements ordered down to Prestina, Uskub, and Mitrovitza: and troops are leaving Widdin, as it is thought advisable to concentrate a large force on Salonika.

"Stores and munitions of war are coming in rapidly at Dédéagatch.

"The Military Convention of 1868, between Prussia and Russia, is renewed at the personal request of the Czar in letter to Emperor."

Mr. Abel goes to London to-night.

No. 187.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 444.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 8, 1878.

MR. CALVERT, of Adrianople, writes yesterday that rising of Mussulmans similar to that in Rhodope mountain is reported in the hilly country between Adrianople and the Black Sea, and that Russian detachment coming from Bourgas was forced back. Fighting continues in the districts to the south of Adrianople and Philippopolis, and the results are not known. A body of Turkish troops under Hafiz Pasha holds part against Russians. Mr. Calvert reports further shocking treatment of Mussulman population by Bulgarians.

No. 188.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

I LEARN to-day from Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs that the negotiations for the surrender of Shumla, commenced by Grand Duke and renewed subsequently by General Todleben, have not advanced. Turks do not refuse, but promise without stating any fixed date.

No. 189.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May* 8, 1878.

RUSSIAN troops commenced passing to Ibraila last night.

No. 190.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Stockholm, May* 8, 1878.

"DROTNING LORISA" was purchased, not chartered by the Russian Government. They are in treaty for three other steamers, one of which is at Cronstadt, but the other two are in port and could be purchased if your Lordship likes.

No. 191.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 8, 1878.

CAPTAIN GILL and Lieutenant Ross state:—

"It is reported that 14th Corps, Zimmermann's, is about to cross to Ibraila, said to be for Plocsti."

No. 192.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 8, 1878.

MR. MERLIN returned to Athens this morning, not having received my telegrams with regard to the refugees. He is of opinion that when insurgent bands have withdrawn and the few remaining irregulars have been embarked, the refugees from burnt villages will be anxious to return of their own accord. He says in some places the male portion are already beginning to do so.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 8, 1878.

I APPROVE your language to the Greek Prime Minister, as reported in your telegram of the 6th instant, in reply to your Excellency's communication to you respecting the refugees from Epirus and Thessaly who are now in Greece.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 434, Secret, of the 17th instant, inclosing Colonel Wellesley's reports Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive.

I request that your Excellency will inform Colonel Wellesley that his despatches have been read with great interest by Her Majesty's Government, and that they fully and entirely approve the language used by him in the conversations he has held with the Emperor of Russia, with Prince Gortchakow, and with General Ignatieff, as reported in those despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 269.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 294 of the 29th ultimo, in which you give, on the authority of a colleague, a sketch of the limits of Bulgaria proposed by Austria to Russia, I have to state to you that Count Schouvaloff asserts positively that the only proposition which has been made by Austria is that made to General Ignatieff at Vienna, and he maintains that even that proposal had not been accepted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 315.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1878.*

IN consequence of rumours which were brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government that Poles found in Turkey during the late campaign were hung by the Russian troops, Mr. Layard was instructed to make inquiries, and endeavour to ascertain whether there was any truth in the story. His Excellency has not yet made a full report, but in his despatch No. 500 of the 16th ultimo, which you will find among the confidentially printed papers which have been forwarded to you, he says that investigations made up to that date by a person in the interior had only resulted in the discovery of one execution of a Pole. As a fresh question on the subject has been put to me by a society known as the "Temple Union," I should wish your Excellency to inform me whether anything is known at Vienna as to the truth or falsehood of the rumours which have been circulated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 317.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1878.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Mr. Monson that I have read with interest his despatch to you, No. 20 of the 30th ultimo, respecting the probable conduct, in the event of war between Austria and Russia, of the soldiers of Slav and other nationalities serving in the Austrian ranks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 198.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, April 30, 1878.*

SINCE my despatch No. 37, Political, of the 24th instant, on the subject of military movements, the only changes that I have to report are the departure, on the 26th instant, of the 7th Regiment of Calarashi (Roumanian cavalry) and the arrival on the same day of a regiment of Cossacks, about 12,000 in number. The Russian force at Galatz is therefore about 2,500 men of the reserve, infantry; 2,500 engineers and field telegraph; 1,200 Cossack cavalry, 1 battery of field artillery.

The accounts which I notice in the English newspapers of the 14th Russian Army Corps and General Zimmermann's head-quarters being at Galatz, are, to say the least, premature.

I am informed that orders have been issued for the Russian troops now at Galatz to return towards Bucharest, and that a large number of troops are expected by the Bender-Galatz Railway, of which the first detachment should arrive to-morrow, but orders and counter-orders are so frequent that but little importance can be attached to information of this nature.

At Ibraila Mr. Vice-Consul Brown reports that there are less than 1,000 Russian troops; these men, apparently, do belong to the 14th Army Corps.

There has been no further movement of troops between Toultcha and Ismail, as the island opposite Toultcha is flooded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 344 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fiume, referring to the prohibition of the exportation of torpedoes, and stating that 100 have been ordered from Messrs. Whitehead and Co. by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Vice-Consul Faber to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Fiume, May 2, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to address your Excellency a telegram, as per copy annexed, the contents of which I now beg to confirm.

It appears that on the 18th ultimo authority was granted to the Germans to export 50 torpedoes, but not having been acted upon meanwhile this order has now been revoked, and on application that it might be renewed a distinct refusal has been received from head-quarters.

The same applies to ten torpedoes which are now in course of delivery to the Portuguese.

The general order includes parts of torpedoes, and appliances appertaining to torpedoes and the firing of them.

I also beg to report that within the last few days the Austro-Hungarian Government has given Messrs. Whitehead and Co. an order for 100 torpedoes, and that a commission is expected here shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. FABER.

No. 200.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 356.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 5, 1878.*

THE IIIrd Article of the Treaty of San Stefano having prescribed the evacuation and destruction of the fort of Ada Kale, a small island in the Danube, nearly opposite the Austrian and Roumanian frontier, the Turkish Minister of War directed the Ottoman Ambassador here to send orders to the officer in command to carry out the arrangement.

In addition to the small garrison, there are on the island between 200 and 300 Mussulmans, cultivating gardens or small plots of ground; and the Ambassador deferred carrying out his instructions till measures could be taken for the safety of these people, who would probably have been expelled by the Servians.

At the same time, the Austro-Hungarian Government, who are not disposed to allow the island to be occupied either by the Servians or Roumanians, entered into negotiation with the Turkish Ambassador to provide for the occupation of the island by them upon the departure of the Turkish troops.

The Treaty does not specify that it is to be made over either to Servia or to Roumania; and the Porte seems to have no objection to its being occupied by the Austrians as soon as arrangements can be made about some stores collected there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 364.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 7, 1878.*

THE Austrian Government is understood to have taken measures for realizing the half of the 60,000,000 florins for which the credit was voted to them by the Delegations for the purpose of taking the military measures called for by the interests and safety of the Empire.

There has been of late a general impression that an immediate occupation of Bosnia was about to take place, but I see at present no reason to modify my belief that it is not so imminent as has been supposed, and that, although ultimately certain, it will not be resorted to without some corresponding military demonstration on the eastern frontier of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 202.

Sir J. Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Chatham, May 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a despatch from Mr. Lister, forwarding copies of a correspondence relative to the desire of the Sublime Porte that the European Commission of the Danube should forthwith commence the repayment of the advances made by Turkey for the execution of the works of improvement at the Danube mouths, and desiring me to report to your Lordship on the subject.

The only fund from which repayment could be made at present is the Commission's reserve fund. The primary object of this fund is to ensure the constant maintenance of the improved depth of the Danube mouth, by keeping always in readiness the means of executing such further works as may be necessary for that purpose.

As, in a river like the Danube, the necessity for such works may, at any time, make itself felt, it would be the height of imprudence to divert this fund from its only legitimate object, as set forth in Article 14 of the Public Act, incorrectly quoted in Colonel Siborne's despatch No. 20 of the 24th ultimo.

Colonel Siborne's quotation refers to the appropriation of the annual revenue of the Commission, the application of the reserve fund is strictly limited to works.

In a very recent report, made to the Commission by Sir Charles Hartley, their consulting engineer, he has drawn attention to the fact that, during the last six years, the advance of the delta in front of Sulina has been much more rapid than during the previous ten years, namely, that the 24 and 30 feet lines of soundings have advanced seawards at the rate of 170 feet a-year, whereas, from 1861 to 1871, the same lines only advanced at the rate of 44 feet per annum. Now, although there is nothing to create immediate alarm that the depth at the Sulina mouth will decrease, still this more rapid shoaling certainly indicates that sooner or later a prolongation of the Sulina piers will become necessary, in order to maintain the present depth of the entrance. The very flat fore-shore of the delta at this point will require that the prolongation, when made, shall be of a very extensive character. The present amount of the reserve fund would probably be inadequate to cover the expense of this prolongation. It is therefore most desirable, in the interests of the navigation, that this fund should go on increasing as it has hitherto done, until trade was suspended by the Russo-Turkish war, and as it will do again when trade is resumed, if, in the future, the tariff of dues is judiciously maintained at its present rate.

In the foregoing I have principally dealt with the inexpediency of touching the reserve fund for the purpose proposed, but I have the honour to urge upon your Lordship that, on the one hand, the Porte has no right to make the demand which, on the other hand, the Commission cannot legally comply with.

It must be borne in mind that in 1856 the Porte insisted on making the advances which it now wishes reimbursed, as the privilege of the territorial Power, and that it refused to allow other Powers to contribute their share of the advances. The mode of repayment was fixed by a Convention between the Porte and the Commission (Annexe I of the Danube Protocol 247) in November 1869. According to that Convention the repayment to the Porte of the advances made by it was a charge on the annual revenue; the proportions of which, and the terms upon which they were to continue, were fixed by that Convention. This annual charge was not to commence until the year 1883, that is to say, until after the extinction of the debt guaranteed by the Powers. This arrangement was strictly in accordance with Article 14 of the Public Act of 1865, which stipulates that the proceeds of the tariff of navigation dues shall be appropriated:—

1. To the repayment of the loans contracted by the Danube Commission for the execution of its works.
2. To cover the annual expenditure of the Commission.
3. To repayment of the Porte's advances.

The Porte cannot therefore claim repayment until the year 1883. Neither can the Commission legally make any payment to the Porte from the reserve fund, as, by the same Article 14, surplus of the revenue is to be "held in reserve to meet the expenses that may be incurred by the prolongation of the Sulina piers; or by the carrying out of such other works as the European Commission, or the authority which shall succeed it, shall subsequently judge useful."

It is true that, under the Public Act, the Danube Commission might, if it were thought desirable to anticipate the payments stipulated in the Convention of 1860, devote any portion of the annual revenue, remaining unexpended after the items 1 and 2 above-mentioned, to the repayment of the Turkish advances, but in this case no addition could be made to the reserve fund for some years; an addition which, as shown above, it is not only prudent, but may be very necessary to make.

From the whole tenour of what I have written, your Lordship will perceive that I cannot recommend compliance with the Turkish request, at the same time the object for which it is made is one that must appeal so strongly to the sympathy of any Government that I venture to throw out the suggestion that the Governments represented on the Danube Commission might conjointly reimburse the Porte a sum which has been advanced in the general European interest, taking over the engagement of the Danube Commission to reimburse the debt according to the conditions of the Convention of 1860; any such undertaking to be accompanied by a perpetuation of the existence and powers of the European Commission of the Danube. If, as proposed in a former despatch, the delta of the Danube were constituted a neutral zone, entirely under the administration of the European Commission of the Danube, this arrangement would appear just, as well as calculated to meet the present difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STOKES.

No. 203.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 9.)

Admiralty, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Commander Fitzgerald, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," from Corfu, dated 7th May, reporting the arrival of three Austrian iron-clads.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Commander Fitzgerald to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Rapid," at Corfu, May 7, 1878, noon.

(Telegraphic.)

THREE Austrian iron-clads, "Hapsberg," "Don Juan," "Kaiser Max," arrived Corfu from Smyrna; sail to-day Cattero Gulf to wait for orders.

No. 204.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 9.)

Admiralty, May 8, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby from Ismid, dated 8th May, 1878.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.) *Ismid, May 8, 1878, 2·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Ambassador yesterday:—

"Consul at Galatz reports Russian vessel arrived there from Odessa on the 6th with torpedoes. She is unloading at Galatz.

"Captain of the 'Rapid' reports Austrian iron-clad squadron arrived at Corfu from Smyrna on Thursday, and sailed yesterday for Cattaro to wait orders."

No. 205.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 446.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1878.*

SULTAN has been consulted about conditions for withdrawal of Greek bands from Thessaly, mentioned in Consul Blunt's telegram transmitted to your Lordship in my telegram No. 428, and is willing to agree to them. I hope to be officially informed by Porte to-morrow of their acceptance, and I will then communicate the fact to Consul Blunt.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 448.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated yesterday:—"Last body of Bashi-Bazouks in Thessaly. Zeibecs from Asia Minor have embarked to-day in Government transport, and left Volo for Smyrna. There are not more irregulars in Thessaly."

No. 207.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 9, 1878.*

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that Prince Bismarck had forwarded a proposal to your Lordship regarding withdrawal of fleet and army. It was not favourably received here, and no answer would be given until Count Schouvaloff arrived.

No. 208.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 125.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 9, 1878.*

THE Austrian and Hungarian Governments have laid before the two Chambers their proposal for raising the 60,000,000 for which the credit was voted by the Delegations. They ask for authority to raise the amount as floating debt on the security of bonds already in the hands of the Minister of Finance; the exact text has not yet been published.

No. 209.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

I APPROVE the steps you have taken as reported in your telegram of the 6th instant, to persuade the refugees in Greece to return to their homes.

No. 210.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Drummond-Hay.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

HER Majesty's ship "Liffey" will be sent to relieve the "Nereus" as British store-ship at Coquimbo.

In the event of war with Russia, would Chilean Government object to Her Majesty's ships being supplied with stores and provisions from the "Liffey," including ordnance stores and ammunition?

Ascertain and answer by telegraph.

No. 211.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 587.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 511 of the 20th ultimo, inclosing a report drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, of his

journey in the districts lying between Bourgas and Kirk-Kilisso, during which he investigated the condition of the Christian and Mussulman villages in those parts.

I request that you will have the goodness to inform Mr. Brophy that I have read his report with very great interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 212.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 589.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from the Italian Ambassador at this Court, inclosing two *Pro-Memoriâ*, one of which refers to the question of arrears due on account of the Lebanon subsidy from the Imperial Turkish revenues.*

From the reply which I have returned to General Menabrea, and of which a copy is also inclosed,† your Excellency will perceive that Her Majesty's Government agree in the opinion held by that of Italy, that it is important that the payments of the subsidy for the administration of the Lebanon should be maintained; and I have to request that your Excellency will take an opportunity of expressing this view to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 213.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 591.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 482 of the 11th ultimo, and to my despatch to you No. 535 A of the 26th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith copies of correspondence relative to the concession granted to the Eastern Telegraph Company by the Porte.

I should be glad to receive any observations which your Excellency may have to offer on the letter from Mr. Pender, Chairman of the Company, of yesterday's date.

If the proposals made on behalf of the Company commend themselves to your judgment you may give them any support which you have an opportunity of affording.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 214.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 41 of the 13th instant reporting the interview which you had with Tsurukvooli Ali Pasha and Osman Pasha, and I have to express to you my approval of the reply which you made to their request that you should communicate to Her Majesty's Government the willingness of the inhabitants of the Lazistan to be placed under the protection of Great Britain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* General Menabrea, April 13. † To General Menabrea, April 25.

No. 215.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Pender.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the concession granted by the Porte to the Eastern Telegraph Company, and I am to inform you that a copy of it has been forwarded this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who has been instructed to give to the proposals made to the Porte on behalf of the Company any support which he may have an opportunity of affording to them, if he considers they are such as he can properly recommend.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 216.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 587.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract of a petition which I have received from Vice-Consul Dalziel addressed to Her Majesty's Government, and unanimously signed by Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, complaining of the injustice of including within the new Bulgarian Principality districts and towns in which they form the majority of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 216.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, April 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in the absence of Mr. Consul Reade, detained in Shumla on business, that a petition to your Excellency on the subject of the appropriation of property indiscriminately by the Bulgarians has been numerously signed by Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, and will be presented to your Excellency by the bearers of this despatch, Ferhad Bey and Mehmet Effendi, the former of whom is well known to me as having been a considerable landed proprietor in the sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 216.

Petition to Porte from Mussulmans, Greeks, and Armenians.

(Traduction.)
Au Premier Ministre de la Grande Bretagne.

LES humbles soussignés exposent ce qui suit.

Toutes les personnes impartiales et sincères de l'univers avoueront sans difficulté que depuis bientôt 600 ans, nous vecûmes sur le sol sacré de notre pays, en pleine harmonie avec nos compagnons Chrétiens, à l'exception des Bulgares qui, dans les derniers temps, travaillés par des intrigants, prirent les armes contre le Gouvernement. Le Gouvernement employa contre eux des moyens légitimes de repression, comme tout autre Gouvernement aurait fait, sans que personne ait eu à y redire, cependant on se plut à considérer les Bulgares comme des opprimés et les Musulmans comme des oppresseurs, ce qui occasionna la calamité de la guerre, grâce à laquelle notre propriété fut détruite et notre sang coula par torrent. A la suite de cette aggression injuste de la part de la Russie, et des persécutions organisées contre nous par les comités Bulgares, nous avions dû, dans un état de nudité et de misère, nous réfugier aux endroits où la conquête n'avait pu arriver et nous nous étions mis ainsi sous la

protection de notre Souverain, mais comment les habitants de deux grands villayets pourraient-ils, dans l'état où ils étaient, se procurer des moyens de subsistance dans le cercle étroit où ils avaient dû se concentrer? Il est vrai que sous les auspices de Sa Majesté le Sultan, on avait pourvu à nos besoins et on nous avait consolé, mais pensant aux difficultés de l'avenir et à ce qui nous était réservé si une disette survenait, nous attendions avec anxiété la conclusion de la paix, afin de pouvoir retourner à nos foyers. En effet, votre Altesse, par son ordre télégraphique du 27 Moharem 1295, à l'adresse du Moutessarif de Varna, lui faisait savoir que l'armistice étant sur le point d'être signé, il eût à rassurer tous ceux qui avaient émigré à Varna et tous ceux qui se proposaient d'émigrer encore de Varna et de Schoumla, et de les faire renoncer à l'expatriation, ainsi que de faire retourner à leurs foyers tous ceux qui émigraient des environs, en préservant ainsi la tranquillité du pays. Plus tard ayant reçu aussi avec joie la nouvelle de la signature de la paix, et pensant que nous n'avions plus rien à craindre sous la protection de l'armée Russe de la persécution des comités Bulgares, nous étions rentrés dans nos foyers. Malheureusement notre attente à cet égard fut trompée et les susdits comités nous traitèrent de la même manière que pendant la guerre, en se livrant contre nous au pillage et au meurtre sans que les officiers Russes se souciassent de les empêcher. Ainsi nous fûmes forcés de reprendre le chemin de l'émigration. N'allons pas chercher très loin dans l'histoire; prenons la guerre de Crimée, prenons la guerre de la Prusse contre l'Autriche d'abord, contre la France ensuite, et voyons si les armées victorieuses respectives avaient commis sur leur passage, même durant la guerre, un seul acte de pillage, de meurtre et d'attentat à l'honneur. On n'en peut certainement citer un seul cas pareil, tandis que depuis que les Russes eurent le pied sur notre territoire il n'y a pas d'acte oppressif qui ne fut commis contre nous, soit par eux, soit par les comités Bulgares.

A l'heure qu'il est les maisons et les boutiques et autres batisses des Musulmans qui se trouvent dans les localités occupées par les Russes, telles que Baldjic, Cavarna Mangalia, Bazardjic, Hezargrad, Djoumaa, Osman Bazari et autres, sont en train d'être démolies et on s'en sert en guise de bois à brûler. Les comités continuent en toute liberté de brûler les fermes et les villages qui restent encore debout. De pareils méfaits aucune loi humaine ne saurait sanctionner et la civilisation sévèrement condamne. Par conséquent, n'ayant plus de force pour en supporter la rigueur, nous sommes obligés de solliciter la protection de notre auguste Souverain pour être sauvés d'une destruction complète, et nous prions qu'une copie légalisée de notre requête soit déposée aux pieds du Trône de Sa Majesté et que des copies pareilles soient également communiquées aux Ambassadeurs des Puissances protectrices de la civilisation, la France, l'Angleterre, l'Autriche, et l'Italie. En outre, la question de la délimitation de la Bulgarie, telle qu'elle a été faite par le Traité dont nous avons lu le texte dans les journaux, a éveillé notre attention et a affecté notre repos. Donner la préférance à une minorité au préjudice de la majorité est un procédé non seulement contraire à l'équité mais qu'aucun Etat au monde ne saurait sanctionner. A cet effet nous croyons devoir faire savoir que le Sandjak de Varna, qui est composé du district de cette ville et de ses villages, ainsi que Baltchic, Pazardjic, Praveli, et Conzeldjé, avec leurs bourgs et communes, ont une population de 84,100 âmes, dont 57,000 sont Musulmans, 12,000 Grecs, 2,000 Arméniens, et 100 Juifs. Quant aux Bulgares ils n'y forment qu'une minorité insignifiante par rapport aux Musulmans, étant avec eux dans la proportion d'un à dix. De même à Kioustendji, Soulina, Kilia, Mahmoudiyé, Baba-Dagh, Matchin, Spalldja, Krissova, Médjidiyé, Bogaz-Kioï, Silistra, Totrakan, Schoumla, Osman-Bazari, Hezar-Grad, et Djoumai-Alique, qui se trouvent dans la circonscription des Sandjacks de Toultcha et de Roustchouk, la population Bulgare, en proportion de celle des Musulmans, Grecs, Arméniens, et Juifs, est minime. Aussi à Tirnova, Cazgan et d'autres localités pareilles, où l'élément Bulgare est supposé être en force, les Musulmans tiennent le premier rang et le second est tenu par les Grecs, les Arméniens, les Juifs et d'autres nationalités. Est-il juste, après cela, que ce pays soit mentionné sous le nom de Bulgarie et que les droits des Musulmans et des autres nationalités soient foulés aux pieds: nous nous en rapportons pour cela au jugement de Sa Majesté et nous concluons en faisant savoir aussi que nos compatriotes Grecs, Arméniens, et Juifs ne sauraient, d'aucune manière, donner leur assentiment à un funeste arrangement pareil.

En tout cas nous nous en rapportons aux ordres de votre Altesse.

Le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Mars* / *Avril* 1878.

(Suivent à peu près 200 sceaux et signatures de Musulmans, Grecs, Arméniens, et Juifs, avec ceux du Moufti et de l'Archevêque Grec en tête).

N.B.—La traduction littérale étant presque impossible, vu l'incohérence de la rédaction, j'ai dû en plusieurs endroits n'en faire que le résumé.

No. 217.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 538. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 27, 1878.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's Confidential telegrams of the 19th and 24th instant, I have informed the Sultan that Her Majesty's Government have been in negotiation, through Prince Bismarck, with Russia, with the object of effecting a simultaneous removal of the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora to Besika Bay, and the Russian army to Adrianople and Dédéagatch, and that Her Majesty's Government can only carry out this project, which has been assented to by Russia in principle, subject to certain stipulations as to the notice to be given with regard to the re-entry of the British fleet, on receiving from His Majesty a formal undertaking to permit it to re-enter the Dardanelles if the Russians should return to the vicinity of Constantinople, or advance upon Bulair.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received from His Majesty himself, a formal and categorical declaration that if, upon the conclusion of the negotiations now pending between the British and Russian Governments for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Russian army to Adrianople and Dédéagatch, and of the British fleet to Besika Bay, the Russians should, under any pretext whatsoever, advance again on Constantinople or upon Bulair, and Her Majesty's Government should desire that the British fleet should re-enter the Sea of Marmora, the Porte pledges itself in his name not to offer any opposition or to throw any difficulties whatever in the way.

I have read this despatch to the Sultan, and His Majesty has expressed his entire approval of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 218.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 539. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, April* 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the reply addressed by Safvet Pasha to the note of M. Nelidov demanding the immediate surrender to Russia of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum. The draft of the answer, as shown to me by his Excellency, has been somewhat modified and shortened, but the one sent is virtually the same in substance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Safvet Pasha to M. Nelidow.

Le 26 *Avril*, 1878.

J'AI reçu la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 10 Avril, pour demander que la Sublime Porte fixe le délai dans lequel les places de Schumla, de Varna, et de Batoum, seront remises aux autorités militaires du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie.

La Sublime Porte fermement résolue à exécuter les engagements qu'elle a contracté se conformera aux dispositions des Préliminaires de Paix pour l'évacuation de places dont il s'agit. Mais permettez-moi de vous faire observer que l'obligation d'évacuer les places de Schumla, de Varna, et de Batoum, résulte de ce que ces villes

font partie du territoire cédé à la Russie ou sont comprises dans la Principauté de Bulgarie, et qu'il est dès lors naturel de penser que cette évacuation s'effectuera en même temps que s'exécuteront les autres dispositions des Préliminaires de Paix au sujet desquelles un délai spécial n'a pas été stipulé.

En vous soumettant ces considérations avec la plus entière confiance je suis convaincu que le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg voudra bien les apprécier comme étant parfaitement conformes à l'acte que nous avons signé le $\frac{19 \text{ Février}}{3 \text{ Mars}}$ dernier.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 219.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 540. Secret.)

Therapia, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram received at the Porte from Essad Bey, the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, giving an account of an interview with Count Andrassy, and of a telegram from Safvet Pasha in reply to it, in which your Lordship will observe his Excellency states that the Russians had proposed to the Porte "une espèce de solidarité pour défendre mutuellement les engagements contractés." This alludes, I presume, to the Additional Article which, as I informed your Lordship at the time, Count Ignatieff proposed to annex to the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano.

These documents have been obtained from a strictly confidential source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Essad Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Vienne, le 23 *Avril*, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI vu le Comte Andrassy, et m'inspirant des idées générales développées dans les dépêches confidentielles de votre Excellence du 11 et 17, j'ai amené la conversation sur la rigueur des conditions imposées par la Russie.

Le Comte m'a dit que la grande faute que nous avions commise était celle, à son avis, d'avoir signé l'instrument de paix sans ajouter la réserve conditionnelle de la sanction ultérieure de l'Europe. Il a reconnu que les modifications territoriales, telles que le Traité voulait les consacrer, créeraient un état de choses impossible et détruisaient les conditions même de l'existence de l'Empire Ottoman; que l'extension des frontières accordées au Monténégro d'un côté et à la Serbie de l'autre, rendait la possession de la Bosnie très précaire, et qu'en abandonnant Podgoritza occidental laissait une porte ouverte aux incursions des Monténégrins, en nous fermant la seule issue qui nous assurerait l'accès de Monténégro.

Il a ajouté que la nouvelle délimitation de la Bulgarie était arbitraire et deviendrait une source permanente de complications.

Cependant, tout en critiquant avec une certaine vivacité et un sentiment de mécontentement visible les stipulations du Traité, et en constatant le devoir des Puissances de le soumettre à une revision exigée par leurs propres intérêts, le Comte n'est pas sorti des généralités et n'a pas précisé les moyens qu'il compte employer. J'ai cru toutefois pouvoir constater dans son langage que nous pouvions compter sur son appui.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Safvet Pasha to Essad Bey.

Constantinople, le 25 *Avril*, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

VEUILLEZ exprimer nos remercîments au Comte Andrassy, &c.

Effectivement nous ne pouvons pas vivre avec une Bulgarie telle qu'elle est constituée ni avec un Monténégro tel qu'on veut l'agrandir.

Nous reconnaissons la faute que nous avons commise en signant l'instrument de paix. Mais nous ne pouvons pas le faire du moment qu'on nous déclarait que l'Europe n'aurait rien à y voir. On nous avait même proposé une espèce de solidarité pour défendre mutuellement les engagements contractés. Notre position était des plus difficiles. Au moment où nous négocions les Préliminaires de Paix les Russes étaient aux portes de Constantinople, et l'Europe nous montrait une indifférence complète.

Je vous prie de dire au Comte que nous venons de compléter nos informations au sujet des localités qu'on nous avait assuré comme se trouvant entre les mains des Monténégrins au moment de la conclusion de l'armistice et que nous devions confirmer d'après la teneur des Bases signées à Kyzanlik leur possession, en attendant leur échange, s'il y a lieu contre des équivalents. La plupart de ces localités se trouvent heureusement entre les mains de nos autorités. Nous nous réservons de faire en temps et lieu nos observations à ce sujet.

No. 220.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 541.)

Therapia, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Odoni transmitting to me various Memorials from Turkish inhabitants of the district of Gallipoli, complaining of their ill-treatment and the destruction of their property by Russians and Greeks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Excellence,

Gallipoli, le 24 *Avril*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous remettre, sous pli, les copies et traductions de trois documents déposés auprès de l'autorité locale par les représentants des populations Musulmanes des Cazas de Charkeuï et Malgara. Ces copies m'ont été données par les représentants eux-mêmes. J'ai classé ces documents par numeros:—

Le No. 1 est un Mashata adressé par les habitants Musulmans de Malgara à l'autorité de Gallipoli.

Le No. 2 est un Mashata adressé par les habitants Musulmans de Charkeuï à l'autorité de Gallipoli et signé par six primats.

Le No. 3 est un récit des Primats du Caza de Malgara, auquel on a ajouté la demande d'être envoyé à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, et qui a été signé aussi par le chef parmi les Primats de Charkeuï.

Son Excellence le Gouverneur a été informé que ces documents me seraient communiqués et elle a même conseillé les représentants des habitants Musulmans des Cazas de Charkeuï et Malgara de faire cette démarche, mais en acceptant ces communications j'ai bien fait entendre à son Excellence et aux pétitionnaires que je ne les acceptais qu'à titre de simples renseignements, sans y attacher la moindre importance officielle.

Son Excellence le Gouverneur a voulu me donner aussi la traduction d'un télégramme reçu de Sultan-Yéré, que je remets, ci-jointe, sub No. 4. J'ai accepté cette traduction au même titre que les autres documents. Je reçois souvent des informations de la part des quelques Musulmans qui se trouvent à Hessan, Ipsala et autres endroits du district de Gallipoli occupés par les Russes. Toutes ces informations démontrent que les rayas Grecs ont fait tout le mal possible aux propriétés des Turcs, dont on a brûlé et pillé la majeure partie des maisons et fermes. Tous ces méfaits se passent au vu et su des autorités militaires Russes, qui promettent toujours de punir les coupables que par contre elles protégent ouvertement.

De cet état de choses il s'ensuit une grande exaspération parmi la population Musulmane et il faudra que les autorités aient grand soin pour éviter des terribles représailles dès que les troupes Russes quitteront le pays actuellement occupé par elles.

Son Excellence le Gouverneur pense que les Musulmans auront beaucoup à souffrir si les troupes Russes seront forcées de se rétirer à la suite d'une nouvelle guerre. Les mauvais sujets parmi les rayas qui ont commis tant de méfaits, sous l'égide des Cosaques, quitteront le pays, dit-elle, avec les armées Russes, mais avant de faire cela ils commettront tout le mal possible.

Les populations Grecque et Arménienne sont déjà bien fatiguées de l'occupation par les armées Russes et voudraient les voir partir au moment plutôt. L'autorité militaire Russe ne connaît absolument rien d'administration judiciaire et autre, et les habitants des endroits occupés sont réduits à redemander l'administration Turque, avec ses défaits, bien entendu, à l'exception des mauvais sujets et de plusieurs Primats Grecs et Arméniens qui ont profité de tous ces bouleversements pour amasser de l'or au détriment des victimes de la guerre.

Dans tout le district de Gallipoli il ne reste sous l'Administration Turque que huit villages Chrétiens et à la suite de plusieurs abus commis par les zaptiés, dans ces villages, je me suis adressé à son Excellence le Gouverneur pour l'en informer et pour lui dire qu'il fallait porter un rémède immédiat à ces abus que, tout en étant très régrettables en tout temps, ils s'étaient surtout en ce moment où les Russes ne se trouvent qu'à deux ou trois heures de distance de ces villages. J'ai ajouté qu'il fallait les réprimer à tout prix. Le Gouverneur a reconnu la justesse de mes observations et m'a assuré que les zaptiés avaient des ordres très strictes pour se comporter bien envers les Chrétiens.

J'ai signalé quelques zaptiés comme étant coupables d'abus, et son Excellence, après s'être assurée du fait, les a fait emprisonner. Elle m'a prié ensuite de lui indiquer un moyen pour éviter ces abus à l'avenir. Je lui ai suggéré de désigner deux zaptiés fixes par chaque village Chrétien et de cette manière, si un abus était commis, on connaîtrait immédiatement le coupable. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer qu'après l'adoption de cette mesure aucun abus n'a été signalé.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Masbata addressed by the Inhabitants of Malgara to the Authority at Gallipoli.

SOUS l'autorité du Sandjak de Rodosto, les Russes qui sont campés depuis deux mois dans le district de Malgara et dès qu'on avait changé l'autorité locale, nos compatriotes des villages Chrétiens, qui sont situés aux environs de la ville, avaient commencé à piller nos villages, brûler nos démeures, égorger nos bestiaux et même ils ont eu la cruauté de tuer les Musulmans.

Malgré qu'ils lisent les journaux ils ne font aucun cas des Articles XVII et XXVII des stipulations du Traité de Paix et ils augmentent à chaque instant leurs atrocités. C'est aujourd'hui que le village de Kirik-Ali a été occupé par une foule de malfaiteurs qui ont démoli les démeures et, après avoir emporté tous les biens du village, ont tué par un coup de fusil Ibrâm, fils de Noug Aga.

Le Colonel d'artillerie, M. Sontolokitch, à son arrivée à Malgara le 13 du mois de Février (v. s.), s'apercevant des pillages, après avoir visité la plupart des maisons pillées, a heureusement mis un terme à ces désordres; mais, helas! pour le moment, quoique l'intérieur de la ville est protégée par les Russes, nous sommes déjà privés de vivres et dénués de biens. Un grand nombre parmi nous n'ayant rien à manger ne vivent qu'avec des herbes pour leur nourriture quotidienne.

Il y a aucun doute que la prospérité d'un pays n'est basée que sur l'exécution des lois pour assurer la tranquillité publique et empêcher en même temps ces sortes d'atrocités et les malveillances, nous osons supplier votre Excellence d'avoir l'extrême bonté de donner connaissance de notre demande car, quoique nous ayons transmis le rapport des persécutions à la Sublime Porte, nous ignorons si notre supplique est parvenue ou non.

Dans l'espoir d'une prompte justice nous avons l'honneur d'être, avec le plus profond respect.

Malgara, le 28 Mars, 1878.

Les habitants de la ville de Malgara,
(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

Masbata écrit par le Village de Charkeuï.

DEPUIS deux mois que les troupes Russes sont campées à Charkeuï, dépendance de la Province de Gallipoli, les villageois Chrétiens des villages de Charkeuï et des environs ont brûlé et ruiné cinq villages, les autres villages Musulmans sont privés de bestiaux et n'ont rien à manger, donc où irons nous? Tous les villages se trouvent dans cet état.

Nous vous soumettons humblement notre état déplorable.

1294 (*le 29 Mars*, 1878, v.s.)

(Signé) ELHATZ SULEIMAN.
MEHMET ESSEIT.
ELHATZ.
MEHEMET ALI.
HALIL OMER.
ESSEIT MEHMED.

Inclosure 4 in No. 220.

Récit des maux rapportés par trois Individus envoyés par les Habitants de la Province de Malgara.

AUSSITOT que nous avons été informés de l'arrivée des Russes les habitants de la ville de Malgara, habitée par les Musulmans et par les Chrétiens, sont sortis à leur rencontre. A l'arrivée des Russes les Chrétiens ont d'abord désarmés les zaptiés et mis en prison. Le Colonel Russe, qui est venu s'installer chez M. Haggi Eximdar, a ordonné que personne ne se dérange de ses affaires. Des crieurs publics, sur l'ordre du Colonel, publièrent que Chrétiens et Musulmans devaient vivre en bonne harmonie, comme ils l'avaient fait depuis 400 ans, mais vers le soir les Grecs de la ville et les villageois de Devedgi-keuï, accompagnés par des soldats Russes, non-seulement ils sont entrés dans les maisons des Musulmans, mais encore ils les dépouillèrent jusqu'au matin aux cris du pillage, ils enlevèrent tous leurs biens qui se trouvaient dans les maisons. Les Musulmans pour sécourir l'un à l'autre tirèrent quelques coups de fusils pour les empêcher, et c'est pendant ce terrible événement qu'une femme voulant partir est tombée évanouie devant la maison de M. Haggi Eximdar, où habitait le susdit Colonel, qui voyant cette femme a ordonné qu'on lui donne de l'eau et a fait nouvellement publier que des pareilles scènes ne devaient pas se renouveler. Cependant plusieurs maisons appartenant aux Musulmans ont été écroulées, ainsi que la sainte Mosquée Sultan Suleiman. Les mêmes, c'est-à-dire les Grecs, sofirent les ruines de la dite sainte Mosquée, et croyant que nous avions enfin nos biens ils ont creusé le dessous des maisons pour les trouver. Tous les biens et meubles des villages Dallisman, Salich, Cam Sadi, Heitza, &c., ont été pillés et ensuite on a donné le feu aux villages et les firent disparaître complètement. Le nommé Halil, habitant du village de Dallisman, au moment qu'on brulait sa maison et qu'il demandait du secours, on l'a jeté au milieu du feu et le fils qui venait à l'aide du père pour le sauver a été aussi jeté au feu et devint victime comme le père. A l'enterrement de la belle-mère de Dervich Bey, qui est morte de mort naturelle, les Chrétiens croyant que les Turcs vont enfuir leurs biens, ou les a forcés de laisser le cadavre trois jours hors du tombeau.

Copie de cette notre supplique générale, que avec beaucoup de crainte nous avons pu écrire et réserver secrètement, en venant par les forêts et les montagnes, à l'autorité de Gallipoli, nous prions qu'elle soit donné à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique et au nom de l'humanité nous invoquons du secours de ce Gouvernement et de la nation pour nous sauver de ces maux.

11 *Rebi-ut-Aehir*, 1295 (3 *Avril*, 1878).

Les représentants Musulmans des habitants Musulmans
de la Province de Malgara,
(Signé) OMER.
MEHEMED.

Le représentant des habitants Musulmans de la
Province de Charkeuï,
(Signé) HALIL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 220.

Mémoire écrit par Télégramme de Sultan-Yeri.

A TROIS lieues de distance de Tilkiler et à six heures de Bourgas, les villages situés aux environs de la ville sont soumis à toutes sortes de vexation. Chaque jour une partie de la cavallerie Russe, au nombre de quarante à cinquante, vient dans les villages brisant les greniers appartenant à l'Etat et les portes des villageois. Après avoir commis des exactions inouïes ils emportent avec violence et font charger sur leurs animaux nos approvisionnements, nos biens et nos meubles et retournent à leur domicile.

Nous prions votre Excellence d'avoir l'extrême bonté en nous donnant des ordres de la manière qu'il faut agir envers ces Cosaques, afin que nous puissions les empêcher.

Le 17 Mars, 1878, v.s.

No. 221.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 513. Secret.)

Therapia, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

ON receiving, on the morning of the 26th instant, your Lordship's telegram of that day, directing me to write down in a despatch to your Lordship the promise given me by the Prime Minister and Safvet Pasha that if, in the event of the simultaneous removal of the British fleet to Besika Bay and the Russian army to Adrianople and Dedeagatch, the Russians should again advance towards Constantinople and Bulair, Her Majesty's ships should be permitted to re-enter the Dardanelles, to read my despatch to the Sultan, and to ask if he approved of it, I at once sent Mr. Sandison to beg His Majesty to have the kindness to receive me, in order that I might carry out your Lordship's instructions. As His Majesty was about to leave the Palace for the day, he told Mr. Sandison that he should be happy to see me early on the following morning.

Before waiting upon His Majesty, I had prepared a despatch in conformity with your Lordship's wishes, and Mr. Sandison made a written translation of it into Turkish.

The Sultan received me with his usual kindness. After a short preliminary conversation, I requested him to permit Mr. Sandison, who accompanied me, to read the despatch which I had addressed to your Lordship. His Majesty listened attentively to it. Whilst expressing his general approval of it, he said that he should like to consult his Prime Minister, whom he was expecting at the Palace, before giving me a formal answer. Sadyk Pasha arrived soon after, and His Majesty handed to him the Turkish translation of the despatch. His Highness suggested a modification of the concluding sentence of the second paragraph, which ran thus:—

"If Her Majesty's Government should ask the Porte's permission to allow the British fleet to re-enter the Sea of Marmora, the Porte pledges itself in his (the Sultan's) name to grant the permission in question."

His Highness observed that these words might be construed as rendering it necessary for Her Majesty's Government to make a formal request for the return of the fleet, and for the Porte to give an equally formal, or even a written, permission for it. The Russians might avail themselves of this to demand a similar permission to return to San Stefano, which he did not think it at all advisable to give. His Majesty approved of the Prime Minister's objection, and, after some consideration, the words as they now stand in my despatch were substituted, viz.: that if "Her Majesty's Government should desire that the British fleet should re-enter the Sea of Marmora, the Porte pledges itself in his (the Sultan's) name not to offer any opposition, or to throw any difficulties in the way." I may observe that it is not usual for the Sultan to give a direct personal pledge of this nature, and consequently the formula that "the Porte pledges itself in the Sultan's name" is adopted, which virtually amounts to the same thing.

The despatch was again read over by the Sultan, and he expressed his entire approval of it, adding that, so far from wishing to prevent Her Majesty's ships re-entering the Dardanelles, he should himself request Her Majesty's Government to send them back into the Sea of Marmora should the Russians show any intention to advance upon his capital or Bulair.

I endeavoured to ascertain whether any communication had been made by the Russians to the Porte with reference to the simultaneous withdrawal of their army and the British fleet. His Majesty said that he had heard nothing whatever from them on the matter. The Prime Minister observed that, the day before, M. Onou had asked him whether the Porte had come to any agreement with England with regard to it, and that he was then able to answer that it had not. Nothing more passed on the subject.

His Majesty then asked me, laughing, whether I had not been surprised by the sudden determination he had taken to change his Ministry.

I admitted that I had. "It became absolutely necessary," His Majesty said, "that he should do so, as there were intrigues going on which seriously weakened the Government and impeded public business. He was determined, therefore, to put an end to these intrigues, and to act with perfect impartiality, by changing his Ministers, on the one hand, and, on the other, by removing from the Palace and his household those who were accused of being in opposition to them. He wished, however, to inform me, personally, that the step he had taken inferred no change of policy. He regretted that he had felt compelled to dismiss some of my friends, and amongst them Said Pasha (the head of his military household), in whom he had the most complete trust. It was his intention, he would tell me confidentially, to reinstate him very shortly."

I thanked His Majesty for what he had said to me. I observed that I was glad that he had not withdrawn his confidence from Said Pasha, who, I had every reason to believe, was one of his most loyal and devoted servants; but, at the same time, I wished him to know that I had no personal predelection for any particular man or men, that those were my friends who most faithfully served His Majesty by promoting the welfare of his subjects and the prosperity of his Empire. I added that I entirely repudiated the vulgar notion that there was, or should be, an "English party" in Turkey. The policy of England, I said, had ever been, and ever would be, to promote, as far as it was in her power, good and just government, and to support the independence and interests of Turkey, so long as they were founded upon and consistent with the general welfare of his people. Those of his Ministers and servants who showed themselves willing and able to pursue a course in conformity with the policy that I had indicated, might be said to belong to the "English party."

The Sultan expressed his warm approval of what I had said, and, turning to Sadyk Pasha, observed that his Highness had his entire confidence, and that he would follow a policy with which he was sure I would be satisfied.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 222.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 514.)

Therapia, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three despatches from Vice-Consul Brophy, and an extract from a fourth, chiefly relating to the shocking treatment of the Mussulman population in his district by the Russians and Bulgarians.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Brophy confirms the accounts that reach Her Majesty's Government from many independent sources, of the attempts being made by both Russians and Bulgarians to exterminate, or expel from the new Bulgarian Principality, not only all Mahommedans, but all those who are not of the Bulgarian race and faith, whether Greeks, Armenians, or Jews. Whilst a large part of the European press and Greek agents, and the Greek Government, are inventing stories of Turkish atrocities, or are exaggerating the excesses which Turkish irregulars may commit against Christians, in order to mislead European public opinion, the outrages that have been, and are being, perpetrated by the Bulgarians and Russians upon the Mussulman population appear to be passed over in silence, although they exceed a thousandfold those that have been perpetrated by the Turks—including even the Circassians under this denomination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, April* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to continue my report of the 4th April.

From Tekendjé I went to Dulgherli (70 Turkish, 150 Bulgarian houses) in which village no houses had been burnt nor any Bulgarians killed, but Circassians had extorted from them, by threats and torture, 3,600*l.* in money.

About the first week in March, by which time many of the Turks of Dulgherli had returned to their homes, as also the whole of the Rayahs, a band of Bulgarians, some of them belonging to the Bulgarian Legion, in the Russian service, others peasants from Rousso Kessér and Ak Yasli, assaulted the Turkish quarter by night, stripping the houses of everything they could carry away, carrying off the cattle, burning one Turk with a heated axe in order to extort money, and beating three others to such an extent that they afterwards died of their bruises.

Some of the Bulgarians here told me that the Turks of the village had been in league with the Circassians, and alluding to one man with whom I had been speaking, "That man fired the church at Kyr Harman, and killed so-and-so there; there are constantly Rayahs coming here to complain of him, but we do all we can to screen and save him from punishment." On my expressing some surprise at this levity, I was answered by "We are Christians, and although they are not so, we endeavour to return good for evil, according to the precepts of our religion." Being still more astonished at language and sentiments not often heard in Bulgarian villages, I proceeded with the conversation, and by dint of assuring them that such crimes as the man in question was alleged to have committed ought not to be hidden from justice, I at last found that "they thought the time had not yet come, as they were still uncertain as to their own future position, and whether their district would be definitively included in the new Bulgaria." Three days afterwards some of the Christians of this village broke into a Turkish neighbour's house, where they outraged a girl, and wounded severely, perhaps mortally, two women (the mother of Sheriff Aga and the wife of Suleiman Aga) who tried to defend her.

On the next day I returned to Bourgas, having been absent seventeen days and ridden over more than 200 miles of country.

Taking a district forty miles wide between Kirk Kilissa, Bourgas, and the sea, I could only hear of ten villages and towns which had escaped completely unharmed by the Mussulman fugitives, and if there be any others I believe that they cannot exceed half-a-dozen in number.

I should mention once for all that wherever these fugitives passed through a Rayah village they invariably carried off all the carts and working beasts, every portable article of value (such as clothes, copper vessels, rugs, &c., &c.), and as much grain as they had conveyance for, except in the case of some villages whose inhabitants fled to Kirk Kilissa, the Rayahs took shelter in the mountains, but as there was snow on the ground they were hunted down by Turks and Circassians (generally the latter), and, if not murdered, compelled by torture (searing with hot irons on the head or breast, pricking with daggers, &c.) to come back with their captors to the village and give up their concealed hoards of money.

As compared with last year at this time there are not ten per cent. of working cattle left in the country, the others having been driven to Constantinople or died on the road, whilst those still remaining are decimated by the rinderpest and the requirements of the Russian soldiery, no spring crops have been sowed this year, and little or no land will be brought under cultivation for the autumn sowing, so that by next year a famine appears to be imminent, unless proper measures are taken, and of such the Russian Provisional Government does not, as yet, appear to have even thought. Some cattle are, or were a few days ago, amongst those Turkish peasants who had either never quitted their villages, or had returned to them afterwards, but as the Bulgarians have developed a hitherto dormant talent for cattle stealing which would have done honour even to the Circassians, it is more than doubtful how long they will remain in the present owners' hands. Even if they do so they will be practically useless for corn-producing, as no Turk dare now stir outside his village without having a Bulgarian with him as guard, and ploughing under such circumstances would scarcely prove remunerative.

The Bulgarian, in his new capacity of cattle-lifter, prefers stealing Turkish property, as being a sort of reprisal, and next to that affects the oxen of Armenians and Greeks; but if he is unable to get any of these, he has no scruple in appropriating those of his fellow-Slavs. Within the last few days Bulgarians on whose information

I can rely have told me that cattle-stealing is even more prevalent now than under the Circassian régime, and "it is worse for us now; formerly we had some chance of getting back our beasts by paying money to the robber or to another Circassian; but at present, if there are any Russians near, our oxen are sold (no questions asked) for a tenth of their value, and in half-an-hour are killed and cut up."

These same men told me that, on the previous night, eleven oxen had been stolen from two small villages; they and others have also assured me that if the present state of anarchy continues, many amongst them will be wishing the Turks, minus the Circassians, back again.

From all that I have seen and heard, I have the full conviction that the Russians are endeavouring, by indirect means, to drive out of the country all Turks, Jews, Armenians, and Greeks, leaving only the Bulgarian element.

It seems to me that, as regards the Osmanlis, their plan is to increase the hate already borne them by the Bulgarians, and to impress upon the latter that, man for man, they are at least a match for their former rulers. In every case in which Turkish villages or caravans of Turkish fugitives have been disarmed by force (as at Fakki, Allagünü, Belevren), the Russians had collected bands of armed Bulgarians whom they sent forward to do all the fighting required, the troops themselves never firing a shot, whilst after the surrender of the Turks, the Bulgarians were allowed full licence to plunder and outrage. I believe, moreover, that all these encounters might have been prevented had the Russians, besides the exclusive employment of regular troops, avoided sending as so-called interpreters Bulgarians of the neighbourhood, whose interest it was that a skirmish should give them the chance of plunder, and whose translation of what passed between them and the Turks was consequently scarcely to be relied upon. The Turks have invariably told me that the folly of undisciplined peasants attempting to cope with regular troops was thoroughly understood by them, and that it was merely the presence of Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks and the certainty of how they would be treated by them which induced them to make any attempt at defence.

Orders, it is true, have been given for disarming all the rayahs, but these are only locally and partially carried out. Bulgarians have repeatedly assured me that even the small proportion of weapons they may choose to give up can be got back by the payment of a few piastres, and that now at Slimnia any Bulgarian who applies to the authorities for arms is immediately furnished with a Martini rifle.

One of the leading Bulgarians here, a member of the Russian Provisional Government, when spoken to about the outrages committed by the Bulgarians upon such Mussulmans as remained, avowed openly that they did not intend that the Turks should stop in the country, and quoted the horrors of the French Revolution as having been the means of regenerating that country. "With a like end in view we can afford," he said, "to let ourselves be called barbarians by Europe."

On the night of the 5th April some of the Bulgarian Legion and a few peasants broke into the houses of the Turks at Kaimerdji, in this caza, wounding one man, burning the beards off two others, and carrying off all the property they could find; as constant complaints are made against the part of this band which infests these districts, the Russians might easily put a stop to its excesses if they were really interested in the repression of Bulgarian crime.

The Turkish quarter in Bourgas, which contained about 400 houses, is utterly and irretrievably ruined, nine-tenths of the dwellings having been destroyed by the Russian soldiery to procure firewood; nothing but seeing it can convey an idea of the wanton destruction committed. From Slimnia, Aidos, and Karnabad, I hear similar accounts of the Turkish houses being carried away piecemeal; and as the Russian Government allows so much a day to pay for firewood for the troops, such acts of vandalism appear utterly unnecessary, unless committed with the view of preventing the return of the legitimate owners.

Neither Jews nor Armenians appear to be considered as having the right to hold property in this country. Some days since a Jew of this town, Asher, the son of Aaron, went to Aidos to give possession of two water-mills there belonging to him, and which he had let to some Greeks of Achialo for a sum of about 50*l.* He was seized by the Bulgarians, severely beaten, stabbed and cut in several places, and would probably have been killed but for the intervention of a certain Sanki, a Greek of the town. By the authorities he was given no redress, but informed that he had no right to let the mills, and that they would save him the trouble. He has since heard that they have been consigned to Bulgarians at a rent of 2,000 piastres, or about a third of the sum he could have obtained for them.

An Armenian of Aidos, Markyros Bakla Oglou, who endeavoured to let a house and garden belonging to him, was also prevented from doing so, and on his claiming the right to dispose of his own property, was told that until further orders were received the authorities could not recognize his right to possess land in Roumelia. The property of another Armenian (a farm at Atanaskeui, close to Bourgas) which he rents from Server Pasha, is constantly being annexed by Bulgarians and requisitioned by Russians on the ground that it is Turkish, nor can he procure any redress.

With regard to the Greek rayahs, the system of elimination pursued appears to be rather that of petty annoyances, such as interference in small matters with their churches and their religion, attempts to induce them to call themselves Bulgarians, favouring Bulgarians at their expense, &c. The Russian Civil Governor here told the agent of M. Zarifi's estates here, in answer to his complaints of various "requisitions," that "the property of private individuals was at the discretion of the Russian army of occupation;" and the Commissary of Police (an officer in the artillery of the Guard), when conversing with a foreigner who suggested that it was hardly fair to disregard such a large minority as is formed by the Greeks in these parts, replied, that "if the Greeks were discontented, the best thing they could do was to sell their property and go elsewhere." It is hardly necessary to add that great irritation prevails amongst the Greek population (both Romaic and Hellene) against Russians and Bulgarians, and that many of them express an intention to emigrate to such parts of Roumelia as may finally be left under the rule of the Porte rather than remain under Slavonic domination.

According to my present experience of the effects of Russian provisional government in these districts, they may be shortly summed up by saying that all the faults of commission and omission which could formerly be imputed to the Turkish provincial administration are now exhibited in an equal degree by the Russo-Bulgar authorities who supply its place. The country is in just as disordered a state as it was last year, with the difference that the Bulgarian, who was then being constantly plundered by Circassians, is now constantly employed in plundering the Turk, and even his own brethren; last year it was the Bulgarian's life and property which were insecure outside his own village, and even within it, now it is the Turk who incurs these dangers. Crime is as rife, miscarriages of justice, judicial delays, unfulfilled promises, are as frequent now as they were a year ago; the actors are different, the rôles are somewhat inverted, but the play is the same and equally open to criticism.

It may of course be urged, and with a great deal of truth, that it is impossible to create a perfect administrative organization within the space of two months, but it is equally true that an organization which must naturally be supposed to have been planned and prepared long beforehand with a view to the requirements of the country in which it was to be adopted, ought at once to have shown, if it possessed them, the germs of future progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, April 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 6th instant the Turkish corvette "Vasitai i Tidjaret" arrived here, having on board Colonel Shakir Bey, Aide-de-camp of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who is charged by the Porte to concert with the Russian military authorities here measures for relieving from their present position the Mussulman refugees now in the Allagina mountains; the same steamer also brought about sixty tons of biscuit for the fugitives in question.

On the following day Shakri Bey, accompanied by a Russian officer of artillery, visited the refugees' camp. The plan which has been (at least theoretically) decided upon is to settle them in some eight or ten villages of this caza, formerly inhabited by Turks or Circassians, but now by Bulgarians, the latter to be transferred elsewhere. The Bulgarian members of the Local Council here say, however, that they will refuse to accept in this caza any Mussulmans but such as really belong to it, and that all others must return to their own villages. If this opposition is allowed to over-rule the plan proposed it will prove very dangerous to the fugitives, as the more the Mussulmans are scattered the more exposed they will be to those attacks which, under any circumstances, the Bulgarians will not fail to make upon them.

Instead of the thousand soldiers promised, thirty-two dragoons were sent from here on the 5th instant, but the Turks naturally refused to leave under an escort so insufficient to protect them. On the same day Bulgarians made an attack upon some of the refugees who were watering cattle, and carried off eleven pairs of buffaloes, but in the skirmish one Bulgarian was killed and another wounded.

A Greek Albanian of this town, Themistocles Jannidis, who went there on the 6th instant in company with a Jew whose sister was amongst the Turks, tells me that the hills where the latter remain were surrounded by Bulgarians from Slimnia, Karnabat, Yamboli, &c., all of them armed, and generally with Martini rifles. He himself was twice fired upon by small parties, who tried to take his horse, and he saw one band which he estimated at 300 in number.

On the 7th instant, eighteen Turks with three ox-waggons were induced by Bulgarians of Aghadjlar (Caza of Yamboli), who were amongst the fugitives in the hills, to leave for Bourgas, the Christians promising to escort them here in safety. When near the village of Ayradjik (formerly Circassian) the Bulgarians who now occupy it set upon the Turks, stripped them of everything, even to their clothes, and beat all of them severely, their rayah companions not in any way endeavouring to save them. One of them, Eumer Oglou Hassan, of Mangalia, near Kustendjé, died here of his bruises on the 14th instant; another, Mustapha Oglou Hassan Chiaoush, had his arm broken; and a third, Ali Oglou Idris, had his ear nearly cut off. I do not hear of any steps having been taken to punish the Bulgarians.

Shukri Bey returned yesterday to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Bourgas, April 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Russian Provisional Government has ordered a levy of 9,000 Bulgarians between the ages of nineteen and twenty-two (both years inclusive), who are to form the nucleus of a territorial army.

To-day, some Turkish peasants of the village of Iskieff (25 houses, eight miles from Bourgas), came to me to ask about the means of proceeding to Constantinople: on my inquiring their reasons for leaving their homes, I was told that it was impossible to stop, as neither their lives nor property were safe; their village has been three times plundered by Bulgarians, chiefly of the "Bulgarian Legion," and on the last occasion, about five weeks since, two young married women (Fatmeh, daughter of Hussein Aga, and Fatmeh, daughter of Mehemet Aga), and four girls were outraged. A woman named Esmah, the wife of Mistan Aga, had her ear nearly cut off, and three men, Ahmet, the son of Mehemet, Ismail, the son of Sali, and Rejeb, the son of Sali, were so severely beaten, that they died within twenty-four hours.

Everything they possessed, grain, cattle, &c., &c., having been carried off by the robbers—of whom none were arrested or in any way punished—and as no Turks can now go outside the village, even to cut wood, without running the risk of being beaten and stripped of their clothes by Bulgarians, these unfortunate villagers have decided to abandon the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.)

Bourgas, April 25, 1878.

ON the 20th April, a number of these refugees were employed in transporting on the backs of horses, the biscuits sent here for them by the Turkish Government, and, although accompanied by an escort of Russian soldiers, seven of them, two women and five men, were murdered by Bulgarians near the village of Kyr Harman.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 223.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 545.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

THE sanitary condition of Constantinople and its suburbs, owing to the large number of Mussulman refugees from the Turkish Provinces in the occupation of the Russians, is such as to cause serious alarm. The Consular Body have had two meetings to consider the steps that should be taken to prevent the sickness now prevailing assuming the form of a dangerous epidemic, which might not only lead to a serious calamity in the city itself but which would probably interfere with its communications with the rest of Europe, by placing it in quarantine. The result of the deliberations of the Consuls were communicated to the Chiefs of Missions in two "Procès-Verbaux," which I have the honour to inclose. Your Lordship will observe that they state that there are about 160,000 refugees in the capital, although the Turkish Government has already removed about 60,000 from it and about 18,000 have died; that "exanthematic" typhus prevails amongst them; that the hospitals are insufficient to receive the sick; and that the mosques and other public places converted into asylums, contain between 800 and 900 cases of typhus. They further allege that the Turkish Government has not the means of removing the greater part of these refugees, and that the attempts it has made to send them back to their homes have been frustrated by the Russian authorities, who have imposed conditions which render their return practically impossible. These conditions are:—

1. That the safety of the Mussulman fugitives can only be guaranteed in places occupied by Russian troops; such places not being designated.

2. That delegates should be first sent by the refugees to ascertain where, considering the devastation caused by the war, their return would be practicable.

3. That the Turkish Government should furnish those who might go back to their homes with the means of existence until they could resume their agricultural labours; and

4. That only those should return who are free from sickness.

On the other hand the refugees from the European provinces of Turkey object to being sent into Asia.

Under these circumstances the Consuls decided unanimously on submitting to the Heads of Missions two proposals, first, that a Mixed Commission composed of Turkish and European functionaries should be formed to deal with the removal of the refugees from the city, and second, that an "octroi" equal to 25 per cent. upon the duties paid to the Custom-house should be raised upon all merchandize for consumption in the city.

As "doyen" of the Diplomatic Body in the absence of Count Zichy, I invited my colleagues to meet at the Embassy the day before yesterday to take into consideration the proposals of the Consular Body. They all attended except the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was absent from illness, and the Persian Minister, who had not received his invitation in time, but whom I afterwards saw and who expressed his general agreement in the decisions taken by us.

The first question which was discussed at the meeting was whether or not the sanitary condition of the capital, in consequence of the number of refugees in the city, was such as to cause serious alarm, and to render any collective step on the part of the foreign Missions necessary. It was decided in the affirmative; one of the reasons being that already the fact of typhus prevailing in Constantinople was stated in the bills of health of shipping, and that some States were consequently considering the expediency of imposing a quarantine upon all vessels coming from thence. If this disease took the form of an epidemic, Constantinople might be put in quarantine, to the great injury of foreign trade.

The second question was whether the Turkish Government itself ought not to undertake the necessary measures for the removal of the fugitives, and whether the Diplomatic Body should not address a collective representation to the Porte calling upon it to do so. It was agreed that such a representation ought to be made, but that the Turkish Government had not the means, or power, of sending the fugitives away and back to their homes, and that foreign Governments might properly come to its assistance in carrying out so desirable an object.

The third question was how this assistance should be given. After a prolonged discussion it was agreed that the suggestion of the Consuls as to placing an "octroi" upon all merchandize for consumption in the city, amounting to 25 per cent. on the duties paid at the Custom-House, or, in fact, an addition of 2 per cent. upon the duties now payable upon imports under the Treaties of Commerce, should be submitted to our Governments as the only means of providing funds to enable the Turkish Government to remove the refugees. It is proposed that this surtax should be temporary, and should be collected and administered by a Joint Commission composed of persons named by the Porte and the various foreign Missions. Neither I nor some of my colleagues felt authorized to agree to the proposal, to which there are no doubt many objections, without direct authority to do so from our respective Governments.

I am assured that the sum mentioned by the Consuls as likely to be obtained from this source, namely, 375,000 Turkish liras a year, is greatly in excess of what could have been collected even in years when the Customs were in their most flourishing condition.

The foreign commercial community does not, I am assured, object to the temporary imposition of the additional 2 per cent. They are of opinion that it would be better to make this sacrifice than to have Constantinople in quarantine, which would inflict more injury on shipping and trade.

It is proposed that if the refugees, or a large portion of them, cannot be sent back to their homes, or sent to Asia, they should be placed under tents, or in temporary wooden huts, at some distance from the city.

It having been agreed that joint representations should be made to the Porte on the subject of the sanitary condition of the capital and the removal of the refugees, Baron Herbert, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, was requested to have the goodness to draw up the instructions to our Dragomans, which he has accordingly done. I inclose a copy of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Réunion du Corps Consulaire chez son doyen M. Oesterreicher, Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Procès-Verbal de la Première Séance (13 *Avril*, 1878).

Présents:

MM. Chicco, Gérant du Consulat-Général d'Italie.
Dobignie, Consul de France.
Fawcett, Consul-Général de la Grande Bretagne.
Gabuzzi (Docteur).
Gillet, Consul d'Allemagne.
Heidenstam, Von, Chancelier de la Légation de Suède et Norwège, chargé des Affaires Consulaires.
Jourdan, Consul-Général de Portugal.
Mathioudaki, Consul de Grèce.
Mulich (Docteur).
Oesterreicher, Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.
Rojas, Consul d'Espagne.
Vercamer, Consul de Belgique.

M. Von Heidenstam est prié de se charger des fonctions de Secrétaire.

M. Oesterreicher explique en quelques mots le but de la réunion. L'état sanitaire de la ville devient des plus alarmants. Des maladies graves, notamment le typhus, règnent à l'état presque épidémique parmi les nombreux réfugiés des provinces et gagnent déjà la population indigène de la ville. Des mesures radicales et promptes sont nécessaires si on veut obvier à un grand danger. Il ne pense pas que le Corps Consulaire puisse de lui-même prendre ces mesures mais il pourrait émettre une opinion qui, soumise aux Chefs des Missions Etrangères, et appuyée par eux énergiquement auprès de la Porte, en amenerait peut-être l'adoption.

M. Gillet croit qu'émettre une opinion ne suffirait pas. Il faudrait aviser à un moyen pratique; être fixés sur les mesures à adopter, sur les moyens de leur exécution surtout, et alors demander aux Chefs des Missions de les faire agréer par les autorités locales.

M. Dobignie ne croit pas que le Gouvernement local puisse seul entreprendre cette tâche. Les moyens lui font défaut et la question ne souffre pas de rétard. Il voudrait plutôt voir former une Commission Mixte *ad hoc*, composée de fonctionnaires Turcs et Européens, ces derniers choisis parmi le personnel des Ambassades et des Consulats. Cette Commission offrant alors toutes les garanties voulues, serait spécialement chargée du renvoi des émigrés, des négociations avec les autorités Russes en vu du rapatriement des uns, des démarches administratives en vue de la colonisation en Asie des autres, mais surtout et avant tout des mesures à prendre afin de se procurer les fonds nécessaires aux frais considérables de cette entreprise.

Pour obtenir ces fonds, M. Dobignie ne voit d'autre source qu'un impôt spécial dont serait grevée la ville de Constantinople. La capitale ayant, la première, intérêt à se débarasser de ces émigrés, dont la présence constitue un danger, doit aussi fournir les moyens de pourvoir à leur éloignement. Mais avant d'aller plus loin dans cette voie, M. Dobignie voudrait qu'on se fixât sur l'étendue du mal. Quel est, au juste, le nombre des réfugiés? Quelle est l'intensité de la maladie dont ils sont atteints et le chiffre de la mortalité?

Répondant à ces questions, M. le Dr. Mulich dit que le Comité Central de Yildiz Kiosk, dont il a l'honneur d'être membre, estime le nombre des réfugiés actuellement dans la capitale à 160,000 environ. Ce nombre a été bien supérieur, mais le Gouvernement en a déjà éloigné près de 60,000 et il en est mort près de 18,000. D'autre part de nouveaux arrivages continuaient à avoir lieu jusqu'à ces temps derniers. Le typhus exanthématique règne parmi eux. Il serait difficile de préciser le chiffre de la mortalité, mais on l'évalue à deux et même trois sur mille par jour. Les hôpitaux sont insuffisants; 800 à 900 malades atteints du typhus gisent dans les mosquées et autres asiles, ne trouvant pas de place dans les hôpitaux.

La maladie s'étend à la population indigène et fait déjà des ravages. En un mot on a tout lieu d'être sérieusement alarmé.

Les efforts du Gouvernement pour éloigner les réfugiés rencontrent de sérieux obstacles. D'abord en ce qui regarde leur rapatriement on n'a pas trouvé beaucoup d'encouragement auprès des autorités Russes. Celles-ci ont déclaré:—

1. Qu'elles ne pouvaient garantir la sécurité des émigrés rentrant chez eux que dans les localités occupées par des troupes Russes; sans pourtant désigner ces localités;

2. Que des Délégués devraient être envoyés préalablement par les émigrés pour s'assurer des localités où, eu égard aux ravages de la guerre, leur retour serait pratiquement possible;

3. Que le Gouvernement devait fournir à tous ceux qu'il rapatriait les moyens d'existence jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent reprendre leurs travaux d'agriculture; et

4. Qu'il ne devrait rapatrier que ceux qui sont exempts de maladies.

Pour ce qui est de leur colonisation en Asie, le Gouvernement a rencontré une certaine résistance de la part des émigrés eux-mêmes, qui se refusent à cette colonisation, désirant plutôt rentrer chez eux, désir dont le Gouvernement reconnaît, du reste, la légitimité. A part cela il se trouve arrêté par le manque absolu de moyens. Les quelques navires qu'il avait nolisés dans ce but et qui avaient déjà commencé le transport des réfugiés en Asie, se trouvent à l'heure qu'il est occupés à transporter les Circassiens qui doivent, par suite d'une Convention récente, quitter la Turquie d'Europe.

M. Oesterreicher remarque qu'à cet égard il y a bien aussi quelque négligence ou incurie. Il est informé qu'un navire du Lloyd, nolisé pour le transport des réfugiés en Asie, attend depuis une semaine ces passagers dans le port. On y a d'abord embarqué environ 200 ou 300, puis négligé pendant plusieurs jours d'y envoyer le complément, de sorte que ceux déjà embarqués, las d'attendre, avaient débarqué peu à peu.

M. le Dr. Gabuzzi affirme également que la situation est très-grave et surtout qu'elle ne souffre pas de retard car, les chaleurs arrivant, le mal pourrait prendre un développement périlleux. Pour sa part, il a constaté une telle impuissance du côté des autorités locales, qu'il a peu de confiance en leur action pour porter remède au mal.

M. Gillet relève l'opinion émise concernant l'opposition tacite des Russes au rapatriement. Il croit que cette opposition se borne à un désir de voir les conditions du rapatriement mieux établies. La difficulté du rapatriement n'est pas là. La vraie pierre d'achoppement, c'est de trouver les fonds nécessaires.

M. von Heidenstam croit en effet que c'est la question sur laquelle devraient se concentrer toutes les recherches. Quelle serait la somme nécessaire et quel serait le

moyen le plus pratique de se la procurer. Il pense qu'un appel à la charité publique serait inefficace. Cette source est tarie.

M. Dobignie estime la somme nécessaire à 1,500,000 fr. ou 2,000,000 fr. Quant au moyen de l'obtenir, il revient à l'idée émise par lui d'un impôt spécial. Il préférerait en principe que ce fut un impôt direct, mais en admet les difficultés de répartition et de perception. Il serait donc porté à proposer un impôt indirect, une augmentation de 10 pour cent sur les droits de douane, par exemple, formant un sorte de droit d'octroi payé par la ville pour se délivrer des réfugiés et du danger qu'ils occasionnent.

A une demande de Mr. Fawcett concernant la zône dans laquelle s'appliquerait ce droit d'octroi, M. Dobignie répond qu'il l'étendrait à toute la ville, sur les deux rives du Bosphore; ce serait un droit frappant toute marchandise entrant dans la consommation de la ville et perçu à la porte de la douane. Un projet analogue a été adopté en Egypte, en vue de certains travaux de reconstruction des rues, avec plein succès.

M. Jourdan estime qu'il serait également réalisable ici, et ne devrait pas rencontrer de difficultés.

M. Gillet se demande si un pareil impôt ne porterait pas atteinte aux Capitulations, aux Tarifs de Douane annexés aux Traités de Commerce. Pour sa part il préférerait un autre moyen. Il signale, par exemple, un rapport fait par les directeurs des grands établissements financiers de la ville à propos du retrait du Caïmé. Ce rapport proposait de retirer de la circulation les monnaies de mauvais aloi, d'employer cet argent au rachat d'une certaine quantité de papier-monnaie tout en facilitant l'infiltration du reste. L'hausse dans la valeur du Caïmé ainsi produite assurerait au Gouvernement une somme considérable. Il a lieu de croire que si cette mesure était adoptée, on trouverait des établissements de banque disposés à avancer une certaine somme au Gouvernement sur la foi de la réalisation de ce bénéfice.

M. Mathioudaki rappelle que le droit de péage du pont de Galata est doublé depuis quelques jours en faveur de la caisse du Comité Central pour les réfugiés. Il se demande si cette taxe, intégralement reçue et sagement administrée, ne suffirait pas, au moins dans une large mesure, au but que l'on se propose.

M. Chicco se demande si un impôt foncier ne serait pas une meilleure base d'opérations.

M. Dobignie ne le croit pas. Son application serait difficile et compliquée. Il craint aussi que le moyen proposé par M. Gillet ne soit beaucoup trop tardif dans ses effets.

Il est décidé d'approfondir les deux projets qui se dégagent de la discussion: celui d'un droit d'octroi proposé par M. Dobignie et celui de M. Gillet consistant dans le remaniment financier du papier-monnaie.

A cet effet une nouvelle réunion est fixée pour Mardi prochain.

M. Gillet propose d'y inviter M. Von Haas.

MM. Mulich et Gabuzzi sont priés d'y assister.

Il est décidé de faire imprimer les procès verbaux des réunions aux frais communs.

(Signé)	OESTERREICHER.	ROJAS.
	GILLET.	DOBIGNIE.
	CHICCO.	FAWCETT.
	MATHIOUDAKI.	MULICH.
	JOURDAN.	VERCAMER.
	HEIDENSTAM, Von.	GABUZZI.
	KEUN (pris connaissance).	

Pour copie conforme à l'original.

Le Secrétaire,

(Signé) O. Von Heidenstam.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Réunion du Corps Consulaire chez son doyen M. Oesterreicher, Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Procès-Verbal de la Deuxième Séance (16 *Avril*, 1878).

Présents:

MM. Chicco, Gérant du Consulat-Général d'Italie.
Dobignie, Consul de France.
Fawcett, Consul-Général de la Grande Bretagne.
Gillet, Consul d'Allemagne.
Goubastoff, Gérant du Consulat-Général de Russie.
Haas, Von.
Heidenstam, Von, Chancelier de la Légation de Suède et Norwège chargé des Affaires Consulaires.
Jourdan, Consul-Général de Portugal.
Mathioudaki, Consul de Grèce.
Oesterreicher, Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.
Rojas, Consul d'Espagne.
Vercamer, Consul de Belgique.

LE Président prie M. Von Haas d'expliquer le projet de remaniement financier qu'avait proposé au Gouvernement le "Comité des Banquiers," et auquel faisait allusion M. Gillet dans la dernière séance.

Ce projet, dit *M. Von Haas*, était basé sur les mesures suivantes:—

1. Retirer de la circulation au moyen des encaissements de la douane, les diverses monnaies métalliques qui font actuellement concurrence au Caïmé, créant ainsi un champ plus libre au papier-monnaie, dont la circulation serait augmentée.

2. Affecter une partie de ces monnaies au rachat et au maintien des cours de Caïmé, la menace de ces rachats suffisant, dans une certaine mesure, à empêcher les dépréciations.

3. Envoyer le reste de ces monnaies à Londres pour les faire démonétiser et convertir en or. La perte entre la valeur monétaire et intrinsèque qui en résulterait serait en grande partie compensée par l'amélioration dans le produit en or des douanes, où les paiements faits en Medjidiés d'argent se rapprocheraient de plus en plus du pair.

En améliorant ainsi les conditions de la circulation du Caïmé, il croit que le Gouvernement pourrait en émettre encore pour un million de livres, sans aucun danger de trop forte dépréciation, à condition toutefois d'adopter les quatre mesures suivantes:—

1. Fixer d'une manière absolue et irrévocable le maximum de l'émission totale.

2. Raréfier successivement les autres monnaies en circulation.

3. Réimprimer tout le Caïmé sur du papier filigrané et créer une monnaie d'appoint.

4. Allouer une partie des recettes de la douane pour amortissement mensuel.

Ce projet n'a pas rencontré l'approbation de la Porte. Non convaincu par les arguments des spécialistes en la matière, elle prévoit au contraire un effondrement du papier-monnaie si l'émission actuelle était augmentée. Elle se déclare donc opposée à toute nouvelle émission et est appuyée en cela par le désir des populations, qui associent, naturellement, à l'idée d'une nouvelle émission, une forte dépréciation des cours. Mais quand même on parviendrait à faire voir au Gouvernement le non fondé de ces craintes, il y a une des quatre conditions formulées dans la proposition des banquiers et posées comme essentielles au projet, qu'il déclare ne pouvoir et ne vouloir accepter à aucun prix, c'est celle de sacrifier une partie des revenus de la Douane pour l'amortissement mensuel. Si dans l'intérêt de la réussite du projet les Missions étrangères consentaient à une augmentation des droits de douane, fournissant ainsi les fonds d'amortissement nécessaires, une nouvelle émission de Caïmé, accompagnée des autres mesures indiquées pour en raffermir le cours, serait alors parfaitement réalisable.

Ce moyen combinerait les deux projets dont s'occupe la réunion, c'est-à-dire, un impôt extraordinaire sur les articles de l'importation étrangère, avec un remaniement financier du Caïmé et, tout en améliorant la circulation du papier-monnaie, donnerait facilement les fonds nécessaires à l'œuvre qu'on a en vue, le renvoi des réfugiés.

M. Dobignie trouve que le projet de M. Von Haas s'accorde en grande partie avec le sien. Ce serait un octroi de mer, si l'on veut, tel qu'il est pratiqué en Algérie, compliqué toutefois d'une opération financière et d'une nouvelle émission de Caïmé. Or proposer dans ce moment au Gouvernement Turc d'émettre du Caïmé serait inopportun. Il vient d'entreprendre au contraire le retrait du Caïmé et de frapper à cet effet certaine marchandise d'un droit spécial. Le faire revenir sur cette décision publiquement annoncée, cesser une opération commencée avec un certain étalage pour en entreprendre une diamétralement opposée, ne serait pas aisé. Il persiste dans l'idée d'un droit d'octroi. Il l'a déjà soumise à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de France, qui l'a parfaitement approuvée et a promis de l'appuyer auprès du Gouvernement Français.

M. Von Heidenstam croit que ce serait d'autant plus difficile de prendre le projet des banquiers sur le remaniement du Caïmé pour base de la recommendation à faire au Gouvernement Turc par les Missions étrangères que ce projet a déjà été formellement rejeté par le Gouvernement Ottoman qui a, à diverses reprises, montré combien il lui était opposé. Vouloir le lui imposer, ne serait peut-être pas le moyen de lui faire agréer l'ingérence étrangère et consentir à la Commission Mixte dont il s'agit. A son point de vue, le grand avantage du projet de M. Dobignie c'est qu'il facilite immensément la négociation avec le Gouvernement Turc. A la place d'une "recommandation officieuse" la transaction assumerait, en quelque sorte, le caractère d'un contrat bilatéral ou synallagmatique. Donnant-donnant. En consentant à une augmentation de douane tout spécialement pour le renvoi des réfugiés, les Missions étrangères acquièrent le droit de réclamer une large part dans l'administration des fonds qui en résulteront et de veiller à leur application intégrale au but proposé. D'un autre côté il ne croit pas qu'un tel impôt, un droit purement municipal ou d'octroi, puisse porter atteinte aux Capitulations ou soulever des difficultés de forme. Les Missions étrangères avaient consenti dans le temps à un droit d'octroi pour la ville de Constantinople en vue de quelques travaux d'utilité publique. Le projet a été abandonné alors faute d'entente sur les détails. Mais le principe était parfaitement admis.

M. Gillet n'y verrait pas grande objection s'il s'agissait simplement d'un octroi, mais il n'admet pas la distinction qu'on veut faire entre l'impôt proposé et un surcroit de douane; c'est dans tous les cas un surcroit d'impôts et les Traités affranchissent les étrangers de tout impôt en dehors de ceux spécifiés. Quant à l'impôt extraordinaire dont viennent d'être frappées les farines pour le retrait du Caïmé, c'est un droit prélevé sur le petit commerce intérieur, qui n'est pas visé par les Traités et dans lequel les étrangers sont assimilés aux indigènes. Il croit néanmoins que l'impôt ainsi imposé est contestable; si pour sa part il ne l'a point contesté c'est qu'aucun Allemand ne paraissait s'en trouver lésé, puisqu'aucune plainte à ce sujet ne lui est parvenue. Dans tous les cas il se demande si pour autoriser l'impôt dont il s'agit il ne serait pas nécessaire d'en référer aux divers Gouvernements. Dans ce cas quelque temps s'écoulera avant d'obtenir leur assentiment et on ne sera pas en mesure de l'appliquer avant six mois.

M. Dobignie considère aussi le droit prélevé sur les farines comme arbitraire. Toutefois il est sûr que le commerce le payerait volontiers s'il avait les garanties voulues qu'il servirait à effectuer le retrait du Caïmé ou même à en améliorer le cours. De même il croit qu'il payerait volontiers le droit dont il est question pour obtenir le renvoi immédiat des réfugiés. La repartition serait des plus justes, le droit frappant seulement les objets entrant dans la consommation de la ville, il serait payé par le consommateur indistinctement, qui profiterait aussi indistinctement du renvoi des réfugiés.

M. Oesterreicher se demande si les droits de Firman payés par la navigation n'offriraient pas un moyen d'obtenir les fonds voulus. Ces droits étant versés aux Consulats pour être par eux payés à qui de droit, il y aurait par là même un mode sûr et facile de les distraire en faveur de la caisse préposée au renvoi des réfugiés, si une fois le Gouvernement consentait à s'en dessaisir, à cet effet, pendant un certain laps de temps.

M. Mathioudaki observe que ces droits sont en partie affectés à l'entretien des phares et de l'ancrage du port. Les distraire serait peut-être exposer la navigation à des inconvénients sérieux.

Mr. Fawcett craint que l'impôt proposé ne rencontre de grandes difficultés; on le qualifiera d'octroi si l'on veut, il ne conservera pas moins l'apparence d'un surcroit de

Douane. Il ne veut pas dire que son Gouvernement lui refusera son consentement, mais il sait qu'il préférerait tout autre moyen d'atteindre le but. Pour sa part il aimerait mieux faire un appel direct aux différents Gouvernements. En leur représentant que non-seulement leurs nationaux ici mais que l'Europe elle-même est mise en danger par l'épidémie naissante, il pense que tous les Gouvernements consentiraient à contribuer pour une quote part aux frais nécessaires pour sauver la ville du danger dont elle est menacée. Il est sûr que l'Angleterre y contribuerait largement. Il pense qu'elle préférait payer directement un demi million que voir son commerce grevé d'un impôt extraordinaire.

M. Chicco ne voit pas où les Gouvernements puiseraient cette somme. A quel budget? Faudrait-il la demander à la représentation du pays? Et à quel titre?

M. Dobignie admet que le moyen serait simple s'il était pratique. Mais il ne le croit pas pratique. Il comprend un appel à la charité, mais comment exiger des différents pays une contribution directe. Aucun Ministère ne voudrait demander un pareil vote aux Chambres, et sans un vote des Chambres quel serait le budget qui pourrait supporter cette charge tout à fait insolite.

M. Rojas ainsi que d'autres membres confirment cette appréciation.

M. Von Haas admet aussi que le seul moyen vraiment pratique, ayant surtout le grand avantage d'une application immédiate, serait celui proposé par M. Dobignie.

M. Gillet le reconnaît également sous la réserve de la question de forme et retire, à la suite des éclaircissements qui ont été fournis, sa proposition de rechercher dans une combinaison financière touchant le Caimé les fonds qu'on demande.

M. Vercamer fait observer qu'on demeure ainsi en présence de deux propositions, l'une de M. Dobignie d'un droit d'octroi, l'autre de Mr. Fawcett d'un appel direct aux Gouvernements. La première, qui est la plus pratique, pourrait rencontrer des difficultés de forme; la juste appréciation de la seconde est plutôt de la compétence des Chefs de Missions, qui sont à même de dire si elle a quelque chance d'être acceptée par les différents Gouvernements. Il propose de les formuler toutes deux dans les conclusions qu'on doit soumettre aux Chefs de Missions, en leur laissant le choix.

M. Gillet voudrait que l'on se prononçât, au contraire, nettement et catégoriquement pour l'une ou l'autre. Il voudrait que la réunion adoptât définitivement un projet, qu'elle soumettrait aux Chefs de Missions comme son opinion arrêtée en l'appuyant unanimement.

Cet avis est accepté et les deux propositions suivantes sont votées à l'unanimité.

1. Création d'une Commission Mixte composée de fonctionnaires Turcs et Européens pour s'occuper de l'évacuation de la ville par les réfugiés des provinces.

2. Etablissement d'un droit d'octroi sur toute marchandise entrant dans la consommation de la ville, calculé sur la base de 25 pour cent des droits payés en douane.

M. Jourdan se demande quelle serait le terme à fixer pour la durée de cet impôt extraordinaire. En temps ordinaire les revenus annuels de la douane de Constantinople s'élèvent à environ 1,500,000 livres Turques; le produit de l'impôt serait de 375,000 livres par an. Dans ce cas, en six mois, on aurait amplement couvert les fonds nécessaires à l'entreprise. Toutefois il faudrait prendre en considération la diminution considérable de l'importation dans les circonstances actuelles.

En confirmant ces données, *M. Von Haas* ajoute qu'une fois la mesure décrétée il se trouvera des établissements financiers tous disposés à faire les avances nécessaires. Il pense qu'il serait impossible de fixer dès-à-présent le terme de la durée de l'impôt, la somme nécessaire au but proposé étant elle-même encore assez vague. Une courte durée, même au prix d'un taux plus élevé, est à son avis, à préférer; 25 pour cent de droit de douane, soit 2 sur les 8 pour cent payés en douane, est, à cet égard, un meilleur taux que les 10 pour cent dont on avait primitivement parlé.

(Signé) OESTERREICHER. VERCAMER.
DOBIGNIE. FAWCETT.
HEIDENSTAM, Vox. GOUBASTOFF.
MATHIOUDAKI. CHICCO.
JOURDAN. HAAS, Von.
ROJAS. GILLET.
KEUN (pris connaissance).

Pour copie conforme à l'original.
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) O. von HEIDENSTAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 223.

Instructions to First Dragomans of Embassies and Legations at Constantinople.

VOUS n'ignorez pas, Monsieur, que des maladies graves telles que le typhus et la petite vérole règnent à l'état presque épidémique parmi les nombreux réfugiés des provinces, et gagnent déjà la population indigène de la capitale. Les moyens dont dispose le service sanitaire sont insuffisants. Les hôpitaux sont encombrés de malades à tel point que des centaines de réfugiés doivent parfois attendre plusieurs jours avant de pouvoir y être admis. Cet état de choses a imposé au Conseil de Santé le devoir d'ordonner, dès le 10 Avril, que dans les patentes délivrées aux navires partant d'ici il soit fait mention du typhus, qui commence à se voir dans la capitale. De leur côté, les Consulats étrangers se sont conformés à cette décision. Cette disposition a déjà provoqué de la part de plusieurs Gouvernements des mesures d'observation sanitaires pour les provenances de Constantinople.

Le Corps Médical est unanime à reconnaître que ce déplorable état d'hygiène provient essentiellement de l'excessive agglomération de réfugiés, ainsi que de l'insuffisance des moyens pour subvenir à leurs besoins.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous rappeler, Monsieur, que les différents comités de secours faisant appel aux Gouvernements étrangers et à la charité publique ont pu jusqu'ici, par les fonds considérables mis à leur disposition, venir en aide au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman pour alléger les maux de la situation.

Malheureusement ces ressources seront bientôt épuisées. Le Comité International lui-même, qui a jusqu'à présent pourvu à l'entretien de 27,000 réfugiés, se trouvera, à partir du premier du mois prochain, forcé de diminuer graduellement ses subsides jusqu'à leur complète cessation à la fin Mai. Le même sort attend les réfugiés secourus par le "Compassionate Fund" et les autres comités.

En exposant ce qui précède à M. le Président du Conseil, vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, appeler la sérieuse attention de son Altesse sur les conditions graves et menaçantes que cet état de choses crée à l'hygiène publique de la capitale et aux intérêts du commune. Je vous engage surtout à relever aux yeux du Premier Ministre que cette situation ne pourrait que s'aggraver considérablement par l'approche de l'été et par la cessation imminente des secours étrangers.

La Sublime Porte ne saurait, à notre avis, conjurer un pareil danger, qu'en adoptant des mesures promptes et efficaces pour l'éloignement des réfugiés.

Je ne doute pas qu'en reconnaissant l'urgence de ces mesures, son Altesse se trouvera à même de vous communiquer d'une manière positive les dispositions qu'elle entend prendre à ce sujet.

No. 224.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 546.)

My Lord, *Therapia, April* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a petition addressed to me by the Mussulman inhabitants of certain districts in Roumelia, complaining of the ill-treatment they are receiving from the Russians and Bulgarians, protesting against the country they live in being included in the new Bulgarian Principality, and expressing their determination to resist to the utmost the attempt to place them under Bulgarian rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No 224.

Petition from Mussulman Inhabitants of Bulgaria to England.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

Excellence,

NOUS, les habitants Musulmans de Despote Balcan, ayant été abandonnés par notre Gouvernement aux Russes pour être incorporés dans la nouvelle Bulgarie, et ne

pouvant supporter plus longtemps leur cruauté, nous adressons cette requête au grand Gouvernement Anglais, qui est l'ami de la liberté et qui a horreur de l'oppression.

Quelques jours avant l'arrivée des Russes à la commune de la Radja Ali dans le district de Haskioi, tant le Commandant-en-chef Souleiman Pacha que Safvet Pacha et d'autres officiers nous ayant, à leur passage, annoncé que l'armistice était conclu et qu'il n'y avait pour nous aucune nécessité d'émigrer, chacun de nous est resté à sa place. Plus tard l'officier commandant de deux escadrons de cavallerie Russe qui se rendait à Gumuldjéna, en passant par ici, ayant confirmé la communication qui nous avait été faite par les Pachas, la confiance parmi les habitants fut parfaite.

Cependant cinq jours plus tard l'armée Russe, retournant de Gumuldjéna, fut campée dans les villages d'Ac-yar-Alti, Dourhaular, Yigumali et Ekurdjele-quebir, aux environs de Caridja Ali, et depuis ce jour le pillage de la propriété Musulmane commença sur une grande échelle, et pendant huit jours il n'y a pas de désordre qui n'ait été commis dans les susdits parages. Après cela cette troupe se divisant en deux, la moitié se rendit à Gruliplie et l'autre à Quiraquiar, où elles commirent respectivement les mêmes horreurs pendant quatre jours. De là ils se dirigèrent vers Teheranem. Dans l'intervalle les Commandants de l'infanterie Russe qui était à Haskioi, ayant déclaré que chacun pouvait rentrer chez soi moyennant un passeport, les habitants du village de Tatari, à une heure de distance de Haskioi, s'en étaient ainsi retournés chez eux des environs de Caradja Ali, où ils se trouvaient. Pendant que les affaires étaient à ce point les soldats Russes, avec les Bulgares de Cavaulie, se rendant d'abord au village de Tchaquirle, pillèrent les effets et les bestiaux des émigrés de Lofteha, et ils firent de même dans le village d'Ishiclar, après avoir désarmé les habitants.

Ici ils citent une série de cas isolés de viol, de meurtre, et de spoliations. En présence de ces horreurs, ayant perdu patience, nous expédiâmes un homme à Gumuldjéna, qui télégraphia deux fois à la Sublime Porte, sans en recevoir une réponse. Nous ne disons pas cela pour nous en plaindre, attendu que nous sûmes plus tard qu'elle nous ayant cédé par la signature du Traité de San Stefano à la Russie, sous le titre de Bulgarie, ne pouvait naturellement nous défendre.

Ayant été ainsi abandonné par notre Gouvernement, et n'ayant personne à qui nous puissions porter nos plaintes, nous prîmes les armes pour nous défendre contre les attaques incessantes des Russes. Que tant de pays Musulmans soient reputés Bulgares et que nous soyons pour cela soumis à tant d'iniquités, ne saurait être sanctionné ni par le bon Dieu ni par Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de tant de millions de nos coreligionnaires.

C'est pourquoi nous prions votre Excellence qu'il ne soit pas admis que notre pays fasse partie intégrale de la Bulgarie, et que comme nous sommes décidés à poursuivre la lutte jusqu'à ce qu'il ne reste pas sur notre sol un Russe ou bien jusqu'à ce que nous mourions tous, que le Gouvernement Anglais se plaise à nous reconnaître comme belligérants.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1878.

(Suivent les sceaux de 60 personnes environs).

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Memorial from the Inhabitants of Silivrie.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES habitants de Silivrie exposent à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur que l'armée Russe ravage leurs fermes, enlève leurs bestiaux, démolit leurs hangars, pille les grains qu'elle trouve dans leurs habitations et brûle les batisses des fermes et les maisons qui se trouvent dans le district.

Ils ajoutent que par crainte des soldats Russes ils ne peuvent aller garder leurs champs, dont la semence ayant déjà poussé, est exposé aux ravages de la cavalerie Russe.

Les soussignés espèrent que l'Angleterre ne voudra jamais tolérer que de pareils méfaits continuent à être impunément perpétrés et invoquent sa protection pour en être délivrés.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1878.

(Suit une trentaine de sceaux des notables, des Mouktars et de quelques habitants du district.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 224.

Memorial from the Mussulmans of Roumelia.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES soussignés qui avaient adressé son Excellence l'Ambassadeur le rapport du $\frac{15}{30}$ Mars dernier par rapport aux cruautés Russo-Bulgares, repètent leurs lamentations à cet égard et ils ajoutent que les Musulmans de Roumélie n'accepteront jamais la constitution d'une Bulgarie telle qu'elle découle du Traité de San Stefano; que la conservation des Musulmans dans la Turquie d'Europe est un *sine qua non* de la tranquillité future de l'Occident et qu'ils ne desespèrent pas de l'assistance de l'Angleterre, les Musulmans étant eux-mêmes prêts à faire tous les sacrifices.

Ils concluent en priant que tout cela soit porté à la connaissance de Sa Majesté la Reine et Impératrice des Indes, et ils disent qu'ils envoient ci-incluses, pour l'information de son Excellence, copies des télégrammes adressés par eux, soit au Parlement soit à certains autres hauts lieux.

Le 23 *Avril*, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 224.

Memorial from the Mussulman population of Roumelia.

(Traduction).

A l'Ambassade Britannique à Constantinople.

IL est notoire que les souffrances des Musulmans en Roumélie, à la suite des événements présents, sont indescriptibles, et que les actes d'oppression des Russes et des Bulgares sont de nature à inspirer d'horreur. Or comme nous ne voyons pas la fin de ces calamités, nous invoquâms la protection d'Angleterre, que nous reconnaissons comme la protectrice naturelle de la justice et de l'humanité, afin qu'elle fit cesser ces actes d'iniquité de la part des Russes. En attendant ceux-ci, dans l'intention bien arrêtée d'anihiler la race Musulmane, continuent de plus belle, jusqu'au présent jour, leurs actes de meurtre, de spoliation et de toute sorte d'iniquité envers les malheureux Musulmans.

D'après les dernières nouvelles, les Bulgares et les Russes commirent encore des atrocités sur une foule d'habitants, telle que de tuer des enfants devant les yeux de leurs parents, d'obliger le fils de tirer la corde avec laquelle son père était pendu, et après avoir spolié les habitants de leurs bestiaux, qui sont l'unique ressource de leur subsistance, leur enlever jusqu'aux habits dont ils sont vêtus.

Ces actes sauvages et iniques, exercés par les Russes sur de pauvres innocents, étant contraires au droit des gens et aux idées civilisatrices du siècle où nous vivons, nous aimons nous bercer de l'espoir que la grande Angleterre, la protectrice de la justice et de l'humanité souffrante, ne reculera pas devant quelques sacrifices pour mettre fin à ces actes d'iniquité et pour sauver les pauvres habitants Musulmans des mains iniques des sauvages Bulgares. En attendant les cas de meurtre augmentent malheureusement de jour en jour, et si cet état de choses se prolonge encore, il ne saurait, la mortalité parmi les émigrés étant aussi prise en considération, qu'aboutir à l'annihilation certaine des Musulmans, qui ont les yeux tournés vers l'Angleterre, qu'ils aiment à reconnître, et comme leur protectrice, nous supplions par conséquent que le Gouvernement Anglais soit informé de la nécessité imminente de prendre un moment plus tôt des mesures pour nous délivrer de la destruction. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour annexer ci-dessous un rapport sur des événements récents destiné à faire suite à celui que nous avons eu l'honneur d'adresser, il y a quelques jours, à votre Excellence, dont nous avons l'honneur d'être les très humbles serviteurs.

Les voyageurs qui arrivent de Sofia et de l'Islimia rapportent qu'il y a sur la route des milliers de cadavres des deux sexes et que les Russes, à qui ne repugne point de détruire tant de créatures humaines, mettent cependant beaucoup de soin à les enterrer, afin d'empêcher l'infection de l'air; que sur la chaussée depuis Yeldiri, dans le voisinage d'Andrinople, jusqu'à Ouirique Minare, à deux heures et demie de distance, quarante-deux cadavres d'hommes, femmes, et enfants, furent comptés, et que des femmes et des filles au nombre du 80 à 100, qui avaient émigré dans la ferme de Ressi Bey, furent dépouillées de leurs vêtements, emmenées dans les bois et mises à mort. Ceci est rapporté par le nommé Constantin, qui est un des affermeurs de la susdite ferme, et dont l'assertion est confirmée par d'autres voyageurs qui arrivent de ces parages.

Mouslih Tchoush de Ouirque-Kilissa, Hadji Hafiz, du village d'Eriklar, et

Hussein Aga rapportent que depuis que les Russes s'emparèrent du district de Juirque-Kilissa les cas de meurtre et de spoliation ne manquent pas journellement d'avoir lieu; que depuis ce temps jusqu'à ce jour le bourg de Juirque-Kilissa et les villages d'Elmadjie Araikler Keshanlik et Ahmeldjo furent plus d'une fois envahis par les Bulgares et les Russes; qu'ils y mirent à mort des enfants et des femmes, qu'ils pillèrent leurs effets, et enlevèrent leurs bestiaux; que ceux qui réclament sont mis à mort, ainsi que cela est arrivé au fils de Hassan, Hodja du village d'Ahmeldjé, à qui ayant suivi les spoliateurs pour supplier que sa propriété lui fût restituée, a été mis à mort avec ses compagnons; que journellement ils emprisonnent et soumettent à des amendes sous de futiles prétextes des habitants de ces bourgs et villages; que huit à dix Musulmans qui s'étaient rendus au moulin pour faire moudre du blé, furent blessés et tués par les Bulgares des alentours; que comme tous ceux qui sortent de leurs habitations sont attaqués et tués, les Musulmans restent, pour ainsi dire, assiégés chez eux; que la mère et la sœur puelle de Sherif Aga, du village d'Allaguioun, furent mises à la question pour leur extorquer de l'argent, qu'après beaucoup de tourments on fit prendre la mère par la main de la fille, qu'on viola et tua ensuite, et qu'enfin les pauvres habitants ne savent plus s'ils sont vivants ou morts.

Lorsque la Russie s'est emparée du Sandjak d'Islimia, les habitants Musulmans de ce sandjak et ceux qui émigraient du villayet du Danube, au nombre, en tout, de 100,000, y compris les femmes et les enfants, avec 20,000 à 30,000 chariots et leurs bestiaux, avaient pu arriver jusqu'à Cafa Dagh, aux environs de Pyrgos, mais par suite de la rigueur du froid ils durent s'y arrêter deux jours. Pendant cet intervalle les Bulgares des alentours, unis à des Bulgares d'autres localités et des Cosaques qu'ils avaient fait venir, assiégèrent les susdits émigrés, en détruisirent 20,000 à 30,000, par des coups de canons et de fusils, et pillèrent leurs effets et leurs bestiaux. Le reste des émigrés, nus et affamés et craignant les Bulgares dont ils étaient entourés, ne purent que rester sur place au plus fort de l'hiver. Deux de ces malheureux, ayant pu échapper et arriver, seuls ici, firent savoir ce qui précède. Là-dessus des délégués furent dépêchés sur les lieux tant de la part de la Porte que de la part de la Russie, qui purent constater et rapporter que sur le restant des émigrés 20,000 à 30,000 étaient morts de faim, ainsi que 40,000 bestiaux, en dehors de ceux qui avaient été pillés. Les 20,000 émigrants environs à qui reste encore un souffle de vie ne font que commencer à recevoir du Gouvernement quelques moyens de subsistence.

Quatre-vingt à cent émigrés, hommes et femmes, se trouvant au village de Tchagnirdji, qui est une dépendance de Philippopoli, les Bulgares du district de Tchirpan les conduisirent tous à leur ville, en tuèrent tous les hommes et, quant aux femmes, ils en choisirent soixante à soixante-dix, les plus jeunes, qu'ils promenèrent dans les maisons Bulgares, en leur infligeant toute espèce d'ignominies; entre autres, ils prirent une jeune femme, tant soit peu belle, que sous la désignation de servante gardèrent au siége de l'administration, où ils continuent à lui faire subir des traitements très inconvenants.

A Tchirpan, ils démolisent une tannerie, une mosquée et plusieurs maisons Musulmanes.

Ils emprisonnèrent le nommé Sadik Tchavouski, huissier municipal, l'Oulema Abdul Cadir Effendi, et le courtier Hassan, que pendant le jour ils forcent, en les battants, à faire toute sorte de travaux humiliants et qu'ils mettent sous écrou la nuit.

Ce qui précède fut raconté à Nouri Effendi de Tchirpan par Omer Aga, témoin oculaire, et qui put s'en échapper à Andrinople sous le déguisement de Bulgare. Le susdit Effendi raconte en outre qu'il vit de ses propres yeux des soldats Russes déchirer, en plein bazar, le yashmak (voile) de deux femmes Musulmanes, en leur faisant toute sorte d'insulte.

A Sofia le nommé Hadji Mano, notable Bulgare, se faisant entourer de plusieurs de ses coreligionnaires, procéda à des démonstrations humiliantes envers les Musulmans, en changeant entre autres choses, du consentement de l'autorité locale, deux de leurs mosquées en églises, et en exposant au mépris et à l'insulte tout ce que, d'après notre religion, il y avait de sacré.

Voilà les détails de tout ce que nous pûmes recueillir de bonne source depuis la date de notre dernier rapport. Nous ne manquerons pas d'en faire autant par la suite à fur et à mesure que nous serions renseignés.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Avril*, 1878.

(Suivent dix signatures).

No. 225.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 547. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, April* 29, 1878.

IT has been my constant object, since I have been at Constantinople, to endeavour to prevail upon the Sultan and his Ministers to introduce reforms calculated to improve the administration of the affairs of the Empire, and to ameliorate the condition of all His Majesty's subjects, whatever may be their race or creed. I am bound to say that I have found in His Majesty an earnest desire to do all in his power for the welfare of his people. The three Ministers who have been at the head of the Government during the last year, Edhem, Ahmed Vefyk, and Sadyk Pashas, are animated with the same good intentions. Unfortunately the time has been most unpropitious for the introduction of any radical reforms, or for carrying out the constitution which the Sultan has granted to his Empire. Turkey has been engaged in a terrible war, which has exhausted her resources. She has been compelled to send all the men that could be collected against her powerful enemy. Even the force necessary for maintaining order and tranquillity, and for the protection of life and property, has been removed from the provinces to serve at the seat of war. In addition, the Porte has been without the means of paying the salaries of the greater number of its civil and military employés. The consequence has been that anarchy has reigned over many parts of Turkey, and that throughout the country the civil authority has been greatly weakened, indeed, in many places, almost paralyzed. The Government, occupied exclusively with the war and with the negotiations with Russia which have succeeded to it, has had little leisure to think of the general administration, which has fallen into complete confusion. The difficulty of obtaining the proper examination and settlement of matters pending before the Porte, in all its departments, has been beyond description, and I have found myself compelled, as have my colleagues, to abandon for the time many important questions which I have vainly endeavoured to bring to a conclusion.

It is to be hoped that, with a return of peace, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs will end, and that when the authority of the Government is once more restored in the provinces, and can be maintained by adequate means, the disorders which now exist will cease.

Amongst the matters which I have been constantly pressing upon the consideration of the successive Prime Ministers have been the abolition of the Slave Trade; the extension, by an Imperial "Iradé," or Decree, to the Protestant subjects of the Sultan of the rights and privileges enjoyed by other Christian communities; and a thorough investigation and reform of the finances. Mr. Sandison has received my instructions to avail himself of every favourable opportunity to bring these subjects to the notice of the Turkish Ministers, and to urge them to carry out the measures that I have ventured to propose to them. Some progress has been made in these matters. I trust that the Porte will shortly enter into a Slave Trade Convention with us, and that the Constitution for the Protestants, which has already been prepared, and which the Sultan himself has assured me has received his full sanction, will soon be promulgated.

I have the honour to inclose a report made to me by Mr. Sandison of a conversation he has had with Sadyk Pasha on these subjects to which I have referred. His Highness, to whom I spoke with regard to them on my first official interview with him, called upon me, three days ago, to say that he had been thinking seriously over what I had said to him, and that he was resolved to act upon my advice. He was specially desirous, he said, to enter at once upon a thorough examination of the financial condition and resources of the Empire, and to carry out such reforms as were necessary. But in order to effect them he required the advice and assistance of a really competent man, who had practical knowledge and experience of financial matters. He begged me to tell your Lordship that he would be most grateful to Her Majesty's Government if they would recommend one to him. He was willing, he said, to pay any salary that might be considered necessary to obtain the services of a person such as he required. If Her Majesty's Government would help Turkey in this matter, they would be rendering her the greatest possible service. He was prepared to place unreservedly, he added, before the person selected the financial condition of the

Empire; and to furnish him all the materials that might be necessary for a complete investigation of every branch of the public revenue and expenditure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Pera, April 24, 1878.*

HAVING had occasion to speak to-day to Sadyk Pasha on the subject of the Protestant Constitution, and the proposed Convention with England for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which I said were calculated to produce a very good effect in England, his Highness declared that he entirely approved all that had already been stated by Safvet Pasha in regard to the latter, and that his own feelings being altogether against the further continuance of the Traffic, he would willingly vote for its effectual suppression by means of the proposed Convention.

As regards the Protestant Constitution, his Highness said he would be equally ready to give it his full support, inasmuch as he recognized in the Armenian Protestants of Turkey a loyal, industrious, honest, and intelligent community, which had done, and is actually doing, a great deal towards the spread of education in the country.

His Highness then spoke of the vast field which the country presented for social and material development, and said that he had, with this view, already submitted to the Sultan the notion of a Turco-European Commission divided into three sections, namely, the economical, statistical, and financial, which ought to be instituted at once, so as to give it the character of a spontaneous measure adopted by the Turkish Government.

His Highness considered that particular attention should be given to the financial section, which should be invested with real authority and proper powers by control over the public revenue and expenditure, and which should also include in its composition efficient and experienced men selected from amongst the foreign bondholders, who would thus be in a position to look after the interests of the bondholders themselves, or at least to enlighten them on the financial situation of the country, and on its future chances of amelioration under proper management. The idea seems to have met with so much approbation from the Sultan, that his Highness received his command to prepare the necessary project in reference to it at once.

Before, however, acting any further in the matter, his Highness would wish much to have some conversation with your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 226.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 548. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, April 29, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, directing me to urge the Sultan to give his sanction to the Convention between the "Eastern Telegraph Company" and the head of the Turkish Telegraphic Department for a direct telegraph line between Constantinople and Europe, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum which Mr. Sandison has drawn up at my request, and which will, I think, enable your Lordship to understand the present position of this question. Your Lordship will perceive from it that the delay which has taken place in this matter is not to be attributed to the Sultan, who gave orders in my presence some weeks ago that the arrangements for direct telegraphic communication with Europe should be at once carried out, but to the attempt of the "Eastern Telegraph Company" to include in the Convention, to which I was directed to give my official support, a line between Tenedos and Salonica. To this line the Council of State expressed some objections, to which it is no doubt open. It is to be regretted that the Company did not confine itself for the

time to the one line recommended by Her Majesty's Government, to which the Porte was quite ready to agree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Memorandum by Mr. Sandison.

ON closely examining the question of telegraphic Convention now pending between the Porte and the Eastern Telegraph Company, which chiefly aims at obtaining a concession for laying down a submarine cable from Tenedos to Salonica, it will be clearly seen that the British Government has no interest whatever in the execution of this scheme, as a matter which purely concerns the Turkish Telegraph Department and the Eastern Telegraph Company.

What the British Government wanted, with a view of being independent of all the telegraph lines of European Turkey at this particular juncture, was readily acceded to by the Turkish Government about two months ago, and the Eastern Telegraph Company was accordingly authorized (by imperial Iradé) to lay down a submarine cable from Besika Bay to Candia viâ Tenedos, Scio, and Syra, thus meeting the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, the only bit left unfinished to complete this Asiatic route being about twelve miles between Kumkali and Besika, as marked with black dots (the red lines show what has already been accomplished by the Eastern Telegraph Company).

The Company and the Turkish Telegraph Department now urge the necessity of an additional submarine cable between Tenedos and Salonica at the expense of the former, on conditions, however, which the Turkish Government, or rather the Council of State, think proper to reject at this moment, chiefly on the plea that the proposed cable which is intended to place Tenedos in communication with Europe, viâ Salonica, Mitrovitza, and Gradiska, or viâ Salonica, Larissa, Tricala, and Otranto, would not be safe for the transmission of political messages, considering that both lines, especially the one viâ Mitrovitza and Gradiska, run through a considerable portion of new Bulgaria. The Prime Minister will see, however, if the proposed cable could be laid from Tenedos to Volo (instead of Salonica), and from thence extended to Valona, but it will of course be necessary for the Porte to consult the Eastern Telegraph Company before taking any decision in the matter.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Pera, April 26, 1878.

No. 227.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 550.)
My Lord, *Therapia, April 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti relative to the request of the Laz Delegates for British protection. I have replied that until I receive the answer of Her Majesty's Government I can add nothing to what I stated in my telegram of the 22nd instant, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 519 of the same date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, April 27, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Laz Delegates have just received a telegram stating that the Russians advance towards Livanah, Adjara, and Tsurukson. They ask in writing whether, having begged for British protection, they will be allowed to be crushed by Russia,

and request me to telegraph again that the moment to act, if anything is to be done on their behalf by word or deed, has arrived, and to let them have an early answer. They add verbally that whatever the reply may be they will fight and die under the British flag.

No. 228.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 551.)
My Lord, *Therapia, April* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Broussa, reporting the offer of two Circassian Chiefs, with about 6,000 followers, to enrol themselves under the British Government. I have desired Mr. Gilbertson to thank the Chiefs for their offer, but to inform them that no such enrolment is taking place as they appear to imagine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Vice-Consul Gilbertson to Mr. Layard.

Honoured Sir, *Broussa, April* 24, 1878.

I AM desired by two Circassian Chiefs, Abbassa Tahan Bey and Ismail Bey, now staying at, and in the immediate neighbourhood of, Broussa, with about 6,000 men, 3,000 cavalry and 3,000 infantry—they have heard that Her Majesty's Government are enrolling interpreters and soldiers for the English army—and wish me to ask you, Sir, if such is the case. If true, they are desirous to enrol themselves under the said Government. They are good strong men, from 20 to 30 years of age. Abbassa Tahan Bey served with Osman Pasha in the engagement at Plevna. They are anxiously awaiting your reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM GILBERTSON.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *Therapia, April* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the Mussulman rising in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 229.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, April* 23, 1878.

THE report has been current here for the past two or three days that twelve Turkish villages in the district of Hasskeui have been destroyed by the Russian troops, the male inhabitants having all taken up arms and fled to the mountains. It is added by some people that the women and children who were left behind suffered much from the Russian troops and their Bulgarian auxiliaries.

General Stalibin has informed my Greek colleague, however, that only three villages have been burnt.

The same report speaks of a serious engagement having been fought with the Bashi-Bazouks in the mountains south of Hasskeui.

A Russian surgeon told my French colleague to-day that a regular battle had

actually taken place, and that the loss on the Russian side amounts to 600 men, and that on the Turkish to 2,000 or 3,000.

General Stalibin assures me that the encounter in question was quite an insignificant affair, in which only some half-dozen Russians were killed.

Amidst the flood of contradictory statements which, as usual, are current, it is impossible to learn the true facts of the matter. But, after all that has passed in my neighbourhood, it is not difficult to believe that the inhabitants of the destroyed villages—whatever their number may be—were, by persecution of the nature now familiar to people in Philippopolis, driven to join the inhabitants of Sultan-Yeri and Akhir-Tchelebi, who, as reported in my despatch No. 4 of the 31st March, have continued to resist, by open warfare, the Russian conquest of that region.

Two aides-de-camp of the Sultan (a Greek and a Turkish officer) have arrived here for the purpose of proceeding to the disturbed mountain districts, and persuading the refractory population to lay aside their arms. But I understand that General Stalibin considers them too young, and not sufficiently experienced to plead successfully with the mountaineers, and has asked that a superior officer should be despatched from Constantinople to conduct the mission of pacification.

I may mention that it is generally imagined among the Russians that "English intrigues" are the cause of the protracted resistance of the Rhodope Pomaks.

I have been informed by General Stalibin that these Bashi-Bazouks, though not numbering 2,000 (other accounts say 25,000 or 30,000) are commanded by two Pashas. His Excellency also tells me that there are a certain number of deserters from Suleiman Pasha's army and of Christian combatants among them. These latter are, in all probability, Greeks of the Rhodope districts, who are almost as dissatisfied at the new state of things as the Turks themselves.

The 9th Regiment of Russians and some companies of infantry, with field-pieces, were sent from here to Hasskeui about a week ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 229.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, April* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, in compliance with General Stalibin's demand that a superior Turkish officer should be sent to induce the hostile Turks of the Akhir-Tchelebi and Sultan-Yeri districts to lay down their arms, General Tewfik Pasha is announced to be on his way hither, and is expected to arrive in the course of to-morrow evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 230.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 557.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert relating to the barbarous treatment by the Russians and Bulgarians of the Mahommedan population of the district of Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopolis, April 18, 1878.

Sir,

IN the "Levant Herald" of the 11th instant, I notice a letter from Philippopolis in which the Russian administration of this town receives praise, which, I am sorry to say, it does not deserve.

The writer says:—

"The Russian Government is executing various public works, among other useful things being the construction and improvement of the public roads by the refugees who are willing to work, and who receive pay at the rate of 1 fr. per day. As for the merchants in the bazaar and other Mussulman shopkeepers, they have reopened their places of business, and carry on the same as heretofore without molestation of any kind whatever. A police force has been formed composed of Bulgarians, who wear a distinctive badge marked with a cross, &c."

It is true that the Russian administration is employing the Turkish refugees in repairing the roads, and the superior officers are fond of informing foreigners that their Government supports the Turks without encouraging them in idleness. But it is not true that the Turks give their labour willingly, and the reason of this is that they do not receive any wages. Most of them would be delighted to work if they were paid even half a franc a day. But they are compelled to give their labour in return for a crust of bread, while their women and children, whom, were they not forced to do the (to them) unprofitable work of the Russian administration, they might be able to maintain, are deprived of their natural breadwinners, and left dependent upon public charity. I latterly ventured to represent this fact to General Stalibin, and this evening I mentioned to him the statement regarding the payment of refugee labourers which I had read in the "Levant Herald," and I said that I should deem it my duty, in reporting to your Excellency, to contradict it.

General Stalibin said that he had made inquiries in the matter, and ascertained that the Turkish labourers had not yet been paid, but would receive the money due to them in a lump sum.

Many of the refugees have, be it remembered, been working for upwards of two months, and, as numbers of them have been sent back to their villages during the last two days, it is clear that there has never been any intention of paying them. I do not wish to insinuate, and do not for a moment believe, that General Stalibin, or any of the other superior officials, have been parties to this dishonest affair, but there have been enough instances of malversation amongst the Russian officials here to justify the supposition that the Turkish refugees have been the victims of Russian official dishonesty.

The Mussulman shopkeepers have not yet reopened their places of business, one reason being that few of them have as yet returned here. Nearly all the Mussulman shops in the bazaar are occupied by Bulgarian vendors of liquor, who have set up in business since the Russian occupation; and, under present conditions, it is not likely that any Turkish shopowner would recover possession of his shop, even if he returned and claimed it.

The Bulgarian policemen mentioned by the "Levant Herald" correspondent are, without exaggeration, a set of thieves and ruffians.

Some four days ago a report was started that the Turks here were preparing to assist "the English," whom the report spoke of as having made a descent into Roumelia. Several Turks were accused of having used threatening language towards the Bulgarians, and spoken disrespectfully of the Czar. They were arrested, severely flogged, and imprisoned.

Since then the persecution of the Turkish population by the Bulgarians, which, as I had the pleasure of informing your Excellency, had been checked by the example made of the abductors of the Turkish girl Nazly, has recommenced. Four young Turkish women were carried off by Bulgarians the day before yesterday, but fortunately were rescued in the course of the day by Russian patrols. Innumerable outrages of other kinds are also being committed.

It appears that the abductors of Nazly were only kept in prison for twenty-four hours, and then were set at liberty. Two days ago they took their revenge. They accused the father of the girl of having arms concealed in his possession, and they dragged him to the konak, beating him savagely on the way. The unfortunate man, in spite of the obvious motive and falseness of the charge, was sentenced on the spot to receive forty lashes, which were inflicted. His wife and daughter are continually threatened, and, it is to be feared, will still have much to suffer.

Three thousand Turkish refugees were yesterday and the day before sent back to their villages in the districts of Ghirpson and Karaja Dagh. They went in fear and trembling. Several deputations of them came to me to beg that they might be allowed to remain here, where they were in comparative safety. Unfortunately it was not in my power to favour their request. I learn that they had hardly got outside the town than they were set upon and robbed again by the Bulgarians, although they had an escort of soldiers. Nothing can be blacker than the prospect before these unfortunate people. Without oxen, or implements, or household utensils and furniture, almost without clothes, they will return to homes which are in ashes, and where they will be surrounded by neighbours literally thirsting for their blood, whom the Russian Government does not appear to be able always to control.

Orders were some time ago issued for the disarmament of the Bulgarian peasantry, but the measure has been very superficially carried out.

The depopulation of the Mussulman portion of this province has been enormous since the retreat of the Turkish army; it is likely soon to be complete. Out of a population of nearly 300,000 there are probably not 15,000 Turks at present left in the sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 231.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 558.)

Therapia, May 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from Consul Reade and Colonel Sankey, giving reports on matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Vienna, April 24, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Bulgarians of repute in this vilayet have lately stated to me in a tone of complaint that the Bulgarian Vice-Governors appointed by the Russians in this quarter have been imposed on them without their having had the slightest voice in the matter; and that as these Vice-Governors are all either Russian former employés, or Bulgarians from Russia who have been alienated from their own nationality, they can only expect to have Russian principles forced upon them to the extinction of their own.

The names of several of these Vice-Governors have been given me.

M. Beltogercovich was Russian Consul at Tultcha.

M. Daseloff was Russian Vice-Consul at Varna.

MM. Zankoff and Balubanoff are notorious members of the Revolutionary Committee at Bucharest, and have always been strongly objected to by the respectable Bulgarians here.

I have not been able to obtain the names of the others, but I have been told by Bulgarians that every one of them is highly objectionable to them, and that, if they were consulted on the matter, they would strongly object to every one of those named.

One respectable Bulgarian, lately in the employ of the railway here, received an appointment from the Russians at Tirnova, but was soon afterwards sent away on the ground that he did not speak the Russian language; but he told my informant that the real reason was because he would not sacrifice his own nationality to that of Russia.

The Bulgarians I have spoken to also complain strongly of the heavy dues imposed

on them by the Russians; in fact they say, if they were sure of a just administration, they would far prefer to be under the Turks than the Russians.

A Greek from Rodosto informs me that M. Critico, hitherto Russian Vice-Consul, and now Governor there, is a notorious enemy of everything Greek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Kustendji, April 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to report to your Excellency that Kustendji is still occupied by 3,000 Russian troops, billeted in stores, mosques, &c., as they themselves, during a former occupation, destroyed the Turkish and Tartar quarters.

Exportation of cereals from here and from Roumania has been prohibited. Very little merchandize is brought here, as the Turks at Constantinople levy an export duty of 8 per cent., and the Russians here an import duty of the same amount.

Meat can be had on one, and sometimes (but seldom) on two days in the week. Scarcity of cattle, and food for the same, and sickness, which has killed a great many, sufficiently accounts for this. Since the Russian occupation not a cartload of wood has been brought in for sale. The Russians have taken all the bakeries into their own hands, and have established a depôt of wood for themselves, after burning all the wood from the houses destroyed for the purpose.

This state of things is hard on working men and poor people, as everything is at quintuple the former prices, and instead of decreasing prices have risen since the end of the war.

General Zimmermann is still at Bazardjik with head-quarters, but about 15,000 of his corps have recrossed the Danube into Roumania, ostensibly for the convenience of supplies.

The only boats that have resumed the usual line between Constantinople and the Danube are the Messageries Maritimes, and one boat a week touches here; for the post we are indebted to an occasional Russian tug-boat from Braila.

Typhus fever is spreading fast, more particularly at Bazardjik and Medjidieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

No. 232.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 559.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 1, 1878.

THE Grand Duke Nicholas went yesterday to Russia, having given over the command of the army on the previous day to General Todleben. Before leaving his Imperial Highness had an audience of the Sultan, at which, I am informed, he twice attempted, without success, to obtain from His Majesty a direct promise that Shumla, Varna, and Batoum should be immediately surrendered to Russia. Nothing else of importance, I am assured, passed on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 233.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 560.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, by M. Rossey, British Vice-Consul at Enos, respecting the movements of Russian troops and military stores in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Vice-Consul Rossy to Consul-General Fawcett.

M. le Consul-Général,

Enos, le 20 *Avril*, 1878.

EN vous confirmant mes précédentes de 5 et 8 du courant, je viens par ma présente vous informer que le Colonel Michaloff est depuis le 16 du courant de retour de sa traversée à notre district, où il a été visiter la rivière ainsi que l'embouchure du port aboutissant dans la ville, et après il est allé à cheval jusqu'à Magharisse, Saros, et divers autres points au bord de la mer.

Hier soixante soldats de l'artillerie sont partis d'Enos laissant les six canons dans le pays, ils ont pris les chevaux prêts et on me dit qu'ils vont transporter d'autres canons de grand calibre.

Hier on a distribué des habilements à un millier de soldats des Grenadiers. L'état hygiénique de ces gens devienne pire d'un jour à l'autre, exceptés ceux qu'on envoient souvent à Kechan. Dans notre ville nous avons quatre maisons qui servent pour hôpital; cependant, malgré cela, on continue la même nourriture, d'offrir à ces malheureux, outre la mauvaise viande, le pain aussi ne se mange pas, il est amer comme l'aloes.

Les villageois dans notre district ils se plaignent amèrement contre le brigandage opéré ouvertement. Nous avons plus de quinze villageois qui ont trouvé leurs bestiaux ici; mais qui ose protéger ces malheureux? Cela arrive actuellement aux villages Grecs.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. ROSSY.

No. 234.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord,

Adrianople, April 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the military movements from and through Adrianople towards the south which had ceased since my last report on this subject (No. 4 of the 13th instant) recommenced on the 18th instant, when six trains left with artillery and munitions of war, and yesterday six batteries which came from the north by road were sent forward by rail. There has been no further movement of troops towards Constantinople.

Owing to the drafts made on it within the last few days for service in the Rhodope Mountains, the garrison of this town has become greatly reduced. It was composed of those regiments of the 5th Division which had suffered most severely during the late campaign, and which, it is understood, the military authorities desired to spare as long as possible from the contingency of further active service.

I am told that the Russian authorities are endeavouring to obtain volunteers for military service from among the native Christian population, the pay offered being 300 piastres a month. No public notice to that effect has, however, been issued, nor do the indirect efforts employed appear as yet to have been attended with any success.

The military chest, in the meanwhile, seems to be quite empty. Large sums due by the commissariat to native and foreign contractors remain unpaid, the troops are in arrears, and so are even the Russian waggoners, of whom a multitude are now on this side of the Balkans.

The mortality in the military hospitals here has again risen to an average of 60 a day on 4,000 sick.

About ten days ago some large houses in the town, including the one occupied by the Municipality, were ordered to be cleared out, in order to serve as additional

hospitals, but they have not yet been made use of, and it is surmised that they are destined for the wounded in the event of war.

From what I hear on all sides, the Russian officers, whilst declaring their readiness to do their duty, almost unanimously express, without disguise, their distaste for the new war which appears to be now imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 235.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Adrianople, April 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that daily confirmation is received of the extent and serious character of the movement among the Mussulman population of the Rhodope Mountains, as first reported by the delegates from Orlakioi.

As regards the northern districts, I learn from a reliable source that there has been fighting between the Russians and the Pomak inhabitants of the Valley of the Kritchina, a stream which falls into the Maritza between Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik. It is not clear which side took the initiative in those parts, but hostilities appear to have broken out about the same time as those further south. The Mussulman Bulgarians, it is said, attacked the neighbouring villages inhabited by their Christian kinsmen, some of whom they slaughtered, mutilating others. The Russians are reported to have succeeded in capturing three or four of the Pomak villages, and to have destroyed them.

The Russian troops have also been engaged for several days past with the Turkish mountaineers above Hasskioi.

In the neighbourhood of Sel-bükrüm, above Tchirmen, where a first engagement took place with a detachment of Cossacks on the 14th instant, as already reported, there has been further and severe fighting. The guerillas there are said to possess four Krupp guns, abandoned during Suleiman Pacha's retreat, and to make great use of them, there being no lack of proper ammunition. The Russians have found it necessary to concentrate in that direction no less than 12,000 troops, of whom 8,000 were sent from Philippopolis, and 4,000 from here. This force is supported by some mountain guns. Travellers from Tchirmen report that firing, both of artillery and small-arms, is daily heard from the hills in that neighbourhood. It has transpired from a Russian source that the losses already incurred by the troops three days ago was 58 men and 2 officers.

The threatening attitude of the guerillas at Demirler-Djemaati, two hours above Orlakioi, compelled the despatch in that direction, on the 17th instant, of 500 infantry from Adrianople, 1,000 from Mustafa-Pasha, and 2 battalions from Demotica.

The movement, however, appears to have for its chief stronghold and forms the rugged and almost inaccessible mountain district of Sultan-Yeri, lying westward of Demotica, and it is in that direction that the most serious struggle is being carried on. A force of 12,000 Russians is reported to be operating there from Demotica, and an engagement took place on the 18th instant, in which there was much bloodshed on both sides. The Russian loss is stated, with what truth I do not know, to amount to 500 men killed and wounded, and 8 officers killed.

It does not appear that any decisive advantage has been obtained on either side in this or the other engagements above mentioned, but it may be inferred that the large force sent against Sultan-Yeri finds more than enough to occupy it, judging by the fact that 2,000 infantry and 3 sotnias of Cossacks were dispatched in great haste yesterday towards the south, presumably with that destination.

It is confirmed that the movement extends southwards to the neighbourhood of Gumurdjina. The Pomaks of the Sitchendjik Mountain, above that place, have, I am assured, also taken up arms.

All accounts agree as to the cause of this general rising of the mountaineers, namely, the intolerable oppression to which the Moslems are subjected under the Russo-Bulgarian régime. The characteristics of that régime continue the same now that a civil administration has been organized as they were at the first, when the excesses committed might with some plausibility have been attributed to the confusion attending the advance of a victorious army. It was the attempt to carry out in the

hill districts the same pitiless system of spoliation and outrage as elsewhere, by disarming the Mussulman inhabitants, and then leaving them to the mercy of the Bulgarians, that brought the movement to a head. Only a day or two before it broke out, the two Turkish villages of Tchirmen-Karagatch and Bildiz-kioi, near Tchirmen, had been thus treated. The inhabitants were stripped of all they possessed, even to their very shoes, and two married women and one girl were carried off from the latter village. The father of the girl gave proof of the growing exasperation by shooting the ravisher dead with a pistol which he had concealed. The Bulgarian, with characteristic cupidity, had offered to forego possession of the girl on payment of 4,000 piastres, a sum which the father did not possess. The Turkish villages near another centre of the movement, that above Orlakioi, were the scene of similar occurrences about the same time; and, as I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 5 of the 16th instant, it was the attempt to plunder the village of Sel-bükrüm which set fire to the train in that quarter.

The feeling of desperation which prevails may be gathered from the reply given by the guerillas of Sultan-Yeri when the Russians, reminding them of the Treaty of San Stefano, summoned them to submit and give up their arms: "We neither recognize your authority nor that of the Porte."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 236.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 8. Political.)
Adrianople, April 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mussulman rising in the Rhodope Mountains is wearing daily, and even hourly, a more and more serious aspect, and that the state of affairs even at Adrianople has become critical.

The items of information contained in my reports on this subject, reaching me as they do from a number of independent sources, are necessarily fragmentary, and this has led to a misapprehension which it is necessary to correct in the first place. From the further details obtained since forwarding my last despatch, of the 20th instant, it has become evident that the scene of the engagement of the 18th instant in the district of Sultan-Yeri, reported in that despatch, was considerably further north than I had reason to suppose, and not far from Sel-bükrüm, where, as mentioned in the same report, another combat had taken place four days previously. The engagement of the 18th really occurred near a large Turkish village named Mahmoudlu-Djemaati, on the right bank of the Arda, three or four hours from Sel-bükrüm and twelve from Demotica. With the guerilla bands were the inhabitants of sixteen neighbouring villages which had recently been plundered and destroyed by the Bulgarians.

The Russian loss on the 18th is ascertained to have been nearly 400, including 130 men and 11 officers killed. On the other hand, the Russians captured from the Turks two of their four field-guns and took 36 prisoners. Waggon-trains have been coming in every day with the wounded from this and subsequent engagements.

Other convoys of wounded have been seen to arrive from the direction of Demotica, and this gives colour to the report of an engagement between the Cossacks and the mountaineers near Gumurdjina some days ago.

Among other incidents in the neighbourhood of Mahmoudlu-Djemaati, I may mention that a squad of cavalry sent on a reconnaissance has been cut off, and a squadron of cavalry and a company of infantry dispatched to look for them have been attacked and dispersed. The Russians are reported to have now entrenched themselves in that quarter. They had four guns during the engagement of the 18th instant, two others were sent from this on the 21st, and of nine guns which came up from the south by road yesterday night were dispatched last night to the scene of action.

The number of mountaineers in arms is estimated by the Russians at 30,000, and that of the troops operating against them at 20,000.

For some days past the officers billeted on the houses in the town have been remarked by the inmates to be in a growing state of uneasiness. They have been heard to admit that the movement has become "une grosse affaire." Yesterday evening these signs were developed into manifest consternation. Officers were entering in hot haste from their meals; the patrols were trebled, and sentinels were placed at

every street-corner, where they have been maintained throughout the day. A guard of half a company of infantry has been placed at each house occupied by a superior officer.

The general belief in the town has been that this is owing to the discovery of a plot to massacre the troops and Christian inhabitants, and it is certain that some such apprehensions are entertained by the Russians, and that, in point of fact, there is a growing effervescence among the Mussulmans here. There are some 60,000 Turkish fugitives (men, women, and children) in the place, and a number of these and of the Mussulman townspeople have been arrested during the last few days for having held "seditious language." Moreover, a Russian soldier was set upon and killed during the night of the 22nd by a party of fugitives; and there have been cases of threatening language and of the drawing of knives where lately there was the humblest submissiveness and the most careful avoidance of offence. In consequence of these disquieting symptoms, the soldiers off duty, contrary to previous usage, now always wear their side arms, whilst the officers carry revolvers.

But last night's commotion may more particularly be accounted for by some intelligence which has just been confidentially imparted to me (11 P.M.), since commencing this despatch. I have it from a source on which I can implicitly rely. Since yesterday, I am assured, the guerrilla movement has spread over the whole of the country to the north. The Rhodope mountaineers are advancing, on the one hand, northwards towards Philippopolis, massacring the Bulgarians, who are flying in masses before them to Stanimak, and the Turks at Kadikioi, too, within an hour of Philippopolis, have already begun to kill the Bulgarians there; on the other hand, the guerrilla bands are pushing towards the railway in the direction of Papasli, Yeni-Mahallé, and Hasskioi-Kayadjik. Heavy and continual firing of artillery and small arms has been heard since the 22nd instant from those stations, and the railway employés there are begging their superiors at Adrianople to ensure the safety of their lives. Along with the Turks and Pomaks of the mountains there is said to be a mixed multitude of Circassians, Albanians, and men wearing the Turkish uniform, and supposed to be stragglers from Suleiman Pasha's late army.

In a word, the gravity of the present situation can scarcely be exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 237.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 9. Political.)
Adrianople, April 27, 1878.

My Lord,

THE state of affairs at Adrianople and in the districts to the north has become generally calmer since my last report.

The Pomaks and others who were threatening the line of railway on this side of Philippopolis have, it is said, been driven back into the mountains. Their immediate aim was, it appears, to destroy the railway bridge at Yeni-Mahallé, and it was not until they had pushed their way to within a very short distance of that place that they were finally repulsed.

It has now transpired that the panic on the night of the 24th instant was occasioned by information given to the Russian authorities of a Mussulman plot, real or supposed, to massacre the Russian troops in the town. There is also reason to believe that a simultaneous attack in force from the mountains above Ortakioï, similar in character to that towards Philippopolis, was apprehended, for the Russian authorities display great vigilance in that direction, and last night, about 10 o'clock, troops were dispatched in haste from the town towards the railway station at Karagatch upon what proved to be a false alarm. It is believed that it was towards Ortakioï, and not Mahmoudlu-Djemaati, that the eight field-pieces were sent on the night of the 23rd, as reported in my last despatch to your Lordship of the 24th instant. Among the persons first arrested were a certain number of Turks who had just come from the hills above Ortakioï. Arrests still continue to be made, but the number of sentinels in the town has been reduced, and the authorities seem upon the whole to be somewhat reassured.

At the same time it is reported, with what truth I am unable to ascertain, that the Russians have been worsted in two further engagements near Mahmoudlu-Djemaati.

Travellers who passed through this a day or two ago from Gumurdjina report that there has been much fighting in that neighbourhood, but I have not been able to learn any particulars.

Troops are now arriving every day from the south, and some artillery also came up yesterday.

It is believed that orders were received here some days ago from the Grand Duke to adopt a conciliatory policy towards both Turks and Greeks. This is attributed to the verbal representations which the Governor-General, Baron Delingshausen, is supposed to have made on the subject to his Imperial Highness during his late visit to San Stefano. The Baron, who is a Protestant of the Baltic provinces, is personally well thought of here. His Excellency returned to Adrianople on the evening of the 24th instant.

Full satisfaction has been accorded to the Greeks in the matter of the church at Bunar Hissar, and of the further aggressive demand addressed to the Archbishop by the Bulgarian community, as reported in my despatch No. 2 of the 9th instant. The Governor-General, on his return, called upon his Eminence and took occasion to announce that he would assist with all his staff at the celebration of mass at the Metropolitan church on Easter Sunday (to-morrow), requesting at the same time that a Te Deum should be sung on that day. On his Excellency's observing more than once and with some emphasis that the service was to be performed in Greek, the Archbishop, with dry courtesy, replied that it was never performed in any other language in Greek churches.

As regards the Mussulman population, such tardy justice as may now be accorded to that unfortunate people will come too late to stay the pent-up flood of hatred and vengeance, should they find an opportunity of following the example of their co-religionists in the Rhodope Mountains.

Meanwhile it is worthy of remark that none of the Turkish notables now here have been arrested, although the name of one of them has been mentioned in connection with the alleged plot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 238.

Acting-Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Adrianople, April 29, 1878.

My Lord,

NO further reports of hostilities in the Rhodope Mountains have reached this since my last despatch to your Lordship of the 27th instant.

For the present, neither the mountaineers nor the Russians on this side of Philippopolis appear disposed to resume the offensive. The latter are said to have entrenched themselves near Ortakioï as well as towards Mahmoudlu-Djemaati.

As regards the districts further north, I learn that the mountaineers westward of Tatar-Bazardjik, who are alleged to be commanded by a "Hafiz Pasha," have been disputing the advance of the Russian forces towards Kustendil, and that troops and artillery left Philippopolis for Pestené, south of Tatar-Bazardjik, on the 26th instant.

The Russian authorities here are evidently still apprehensive of a *coup de main* from without, for a cordon of vedettes has been drawn around the town, and the remainder of the dragoon regiment of the garrison told off for this service has been distributed among the surrounding villages. Orderlies are constantly coming and going between these outposts and head-quarters. The public has been forbidden to circulate in the streets after 8 o'clock at night. Arrests continue to be made, and the search for arms is at the same time carried out most rigorously. Even the fancy Turkish arms exposed for sale, and of which Russian officers are now the only purchasers, have been sequestered. Among the persons arrested there has been of late a certain proportion of Bulgarians. It is supposed that these last are charged with having participated in the recent sacking of Turkish villages in this neighbourhood, for it is now announced that a strict inquiry will be instituted into that matter.

I am still without information regarding the state of affairs towards Gumurdjina, but the rumours of fighting in that quarter appear to be confirmed by the fact that, on the 24th instant, twenty-two railway waggons filled with soldiers left Tchorlu for the Koulali-Bourgas Junction, whence the troops continued their journey by rail to

Ferredjik. Each waggon carries about fifty men. The 34th Cossack regiment, lately in garrison here, left some days previously, taking the road to Demotica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 239.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 36. Political.)
Galatz, April 23, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35, Political, of the 20th instant, on the subject of Russian military movements, I have the honour to report the arrival at Galatz yesterday and to-day of about 2,000 men, of whom a portion belong apparently to a field telegraph train. They are said to be a part of General Gourko's corps; the numbers on the shoulder-straps are, in some cases, 1, in others 1 with a cypher and 2 with a cypher. The cypher, I am informed, marks the Engineer corps.

The men of the Russian reserve, 1,000 in number, whose arrival at Galatz was reported in my despatch above quoted, were under orders to leave this morning, but this order appears to have been countermanded.

Two more batteries of field artillery have passed from Toultcha to Ismail since the 18th instant, making five in all.

Two Russian heavy guns, of those lying ready to be taken down river by Russian vessels, have been sent to Ibraila.

On the 21st and 22nd instant about 2,500 Turkish prisoners arrived at Galatz from Bucharest. Two Austrian steamers have taken from 1,800 to 1,900 of them to Constantinople, and a Turkish gun-boat has passed Galatz, having a number more on board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 240.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 37. Political.)
Galatz, April 24, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36, Political, of yesterday's date, on the subject of the Russian military movements, I have the honour to report that the total number of Russian troops that arrived at Galatz on the 22nd and 23rd instant is 2,500. They are all apparently engineers, and their ultimate destination is said to be Reni.

The 1,000 men of the Russian reserve still remain at Galatz.

In addition to the two batteries of field artillery alluded to in the despatch above quoted as having crossed from Toultcha to Ismail since the 18th instant, I have news of the passage of about 2,000 infantry and 400 cavalry to Ismail, and of 1,500 men of the 36th division of the 7th Army Corps having arrived at Reni from Toultcha or Isaakcha.

The three squadrons of the 7th regiment of Roumanian cavalry which were at Ismail, Bolgrad, and Cahul, came into Galatz this morning, and are now under orders to leave either to-morrow or the next day for the district of Doljiu, in the direction of Kalafat; Roumanian cavalry and infantry are passing by rail in the same direction. Roumanian reserves are coming into Galatz, and there only remain a sufficient number of Dorobanti in the town to carry on the police duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 241.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 264. Confidential.)
Athens, May 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that three men, whom I believe to be Russians, left Athens yesterday evening for Syra. One of them stated that he was a Swede, Count Ermes; another that he was a German, M. de Berg; and the third that he was a Prince Altenberg.

Mr. Binney, Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, informs me by telegraph that they left to-day for Smyrna, accompanied by two attendants, supposed to be their servants, and that he has requested Her Majesty's Consul there to watch their movements. They are tall, fair-haired men. At Smyrna they will be able to embark for Alexandria.

I am informed that there are no ships at the Piræus or at Patras under the American flag.

I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, at Rome, and at Alexandria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 242.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 266.)
Athens, May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed that there are no ships under the American flag at Syra.

I have reported this to Her Majesty's Representatives in Turkey, Italy, and Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 243.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 267. Secret.)
Athens, May 2, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of the 23rd and 24th ultimo, to Sir Augustus Paget's telegram of the 27th ultimo, and to my despatches Nos. 264 and 266 of yesterday's and to-day's date, I have the honour to report that three gentlemen arrived at an hotel at Athens on the 27th instant, where they refused at first to give any names. It was remarked that they were in communication with one of the Secretaries of the Russian Legation, and after one or two days one of them stated that he was a Swede, Count A. G. Ermes; another said he was a German, M. de Berg; and the third that he was a Prince Altenberg. These facts excited suspicion, and on hearing that they were about to leave Athens for Syra, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul there to have them watched. He did so, and reported to me their departure for Smyrna. I also instructed him, in the event of their going to Smyrna, to beg Her Majesty's Consul there to watch them, and to report their movements to me; this Mr. Binney informs me he has done.

I have little doubt of the persons in question being Russians, as Mr. Binney informs me two of them were heard speaking Russian to each other. He also states that he has discovered that they came from Constantinople to the Piræus.

I have also telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consuls at Corfu, Patras, and Syra, to let me know if there are any American ships there, and if so, to report their names. I have received answers from Patras and Syra that there are no ships under the American flag there. I have as yet no answer from Corfu.

The Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" informs me that, as far as he can ascertain, there are no ships under that flag at the Piræus.

I have, in accordance with your Lordship's orders, telegraphed on this subject to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 244.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 489.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith Colonel Wellesley's Confidential despatch reporting his farewell interview with the Emperor on the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Colonel Wellesley to Lord A. Loftus.

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 5, 1878.

I YESTERDAY took leave of the Emperor.

His Majesty, who received me with great kindness, said that Count Schouvaloff, after interviews with the Prime Minister and Lord Salisbury, had requested and obtained his permission to come to St. Petersburgh, in order to explain, in a conciliatory spirit, the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the present difficulties.

"God grant," said the Emperor, "that Schouvaloff's mission may lead to a good understanding. I can only repeat now what I have so frequently said to you before with regard to the horror I entertain of a war with your country. You may imagine what my feelings must be on the subject, when, all other considerations apart, my only daughter is married to an English Prince."

I replied that the British Cabinet were as much averse from war, if it could be avoided, as the Emperor himself; but added my belief that Her Majesty's present Government were resolved to maintain the solemn observance of international engagements, as the only means of putting an end to the disorder which has reigned in Europe for the last twenty years in consequence of a growing disrespect for Treaty rights and obligations.

His Majesty again referred to the expected arrival of Count Schouvaloff, and said that, as his journey would be undertaken, more or less, at the instigation of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, he entertained hopes of a satisfactory arrangement, adding, "Enfin c'est un dernier essai."

The latter words were not said in any spirit of menace; on the contrary, I could see how much the Emperor trusted to the mission of Count Schouvaloff in order to arrive at an understanding with Her Majesty's Government.

I reminded the Emperor that the position of the British Government was entirely different to that of His Majesty, and that, whereas in England public opinion plays so great a part, in Russia His Majesty is omnipotent.

The Emperor rejoined that public opinion exists and makes itself felt even in this country, and that, unfortunately, his people were becoming more and more convinced that the object of England is the humiliation of Russia.

I of course again denied the truth of this impression, and added that even if public opinion does exist in Russia, it has so little power that a word from His Majesty would at once remove all the difficulties of the situation.

After a few observations of no importance, the Emperor continued, "Unfortunately, although we are living in the nineteenth century—in an age of so-called civilization—'le plus fort a toujours raison.' We have already seen this, and sad as it may appear, it is but too true."

In reply to this remark, I ventured to express my belief that it was in order to prevent the continuation of such a state of affairs as the Emperor had just described, that Her Majesty's present Government were firmly resolved to uphold the sanctity of Treaties.

In conclusion, His Majesty repeated his anxious desire for the maintenance of good relations between England and Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY.

No. 245.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 495.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article in translation by Mr. Michell from the "Novoe Vremia" of the 4th instant, reproducing a letter from the London correspondent of the "Neue Freie Presse," on the subject of the German steamer "Cimbria," freighted by the Russian Government for the purpose of transporting Russian naval officers and seamen to America.

From the information given in this letter, it would appear that the London correspondent of the "Neue Freie Presse" must have obtained his information from some official source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Substance of Article in the "Novoe Vremia."

THE "Novoe Vremia" of the 22nd April/4th May, 1878, reproduces a letter addressed by the London correspondent of the "Neue Freie Presse" on the subject of the "Cimbria." This letter, which is interesting in so far as it shows that the writer must derive his information from secret official sources in England, the "Novoe Vremia" prefaces with some remarks of its own. The following is a retranslation of the letter with the Russian editor's remarks:—

"As a matter of course our preparations for the equipment of a fleet of cruizers in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are conducted under the greatest secrecy and with the preservation of all the formalities incident to a time of peace. Although many rumours on this subject have been current among the public, yet they did not appear in the Russian press, and too much discretion cannot be observed in this respect. The English Government has succeeded in tracing and identifying one of our future cruizers, the "Cimbria," as a telegram from Washington informed us yesterday. It would appear from the London correspondence of the "Neue Freie Presse," that a regular hue and cry was raised after this vessel, in order to ascertain where she was being equipped and whither she was bound.

"The "Cimbria," of 3,000 tons burthen, and belonging to a company which maintains regular communications between Hamburgh and North America, arrived at Hamburgh at the end of March last. On the 23rd March/4th April the steamer received orders to prepare for a voyage, and the captain was instructed to supply himself with mattresses and blankets for 600 men, as also to take in provisions for a similar number of passengers. Moreover, a new captain was appointed to the "Cimbria" in the person of a Mr. Badenhausen, who formerly commanded a steamer on the West Indian line. The "Cimbria" dropped down the Elbe on the same evening, for the purpose of taking in coal at Brunshaven, and of secretly receiving on board some mysterious cases, which are supposed to have contained ammunition. The officers and crew were ignorant of their destination; they were merely told that the steamer would first proceed to an American port, and then go elsewhere. It also became known that the captain was in possession of sealed instructions, and that he was only to open them when the pilot left the steamer at the mouth of the Elbe.

"Everything was so rapidly arranged, that it was only on the 25th April/7th May when the "Cimbria" had already left Kirkshaven and had reached the open sea, that some vague rumours reached the English Consul. The inquiries which were first set on foot led to no positive results, particularly because the employés of the Company either pretended complete ignorance of the whole matter, or were really misinformed on the subject. It however was known that Badenhausen was the only captain in the

employ of the Company who was acquainted with the Pacific Ocean and the coast of Eastern Asia. The English Consul then telegraphed to Heligoland, and was informed that the "Cimbria," after leaving the mouths of the Elbe, had passed between the above island and the Schleswig coast and had proceeded northwards, a course which was a most unusual one for the steamers of the Company. The Consul at Hamburgh ascertained further that a first-class passenger, evidently a naval man, got on board the steamer at the mouth of the river, and that this passenger spoke German with a pronunciation of the Baltic provinces; he also, it was alleged, told the captain that he was well acquainted with the Baltic.

"After this no doubt existed that the "Cimbria" was bound for the Baltic. The scent, however, was lost for a time in the Cattegat Sound and Little Belt, where the answer sent to inquiries was to the effect that nothing had been heard or seen of the ship. This is to be explained by the fact that the mysterious stranger steered the ship without the assistance of pilots, whose stations were passed during the night time. On the strength of all this information and surmise transmitted to London by the English Consul at Hamburgh, a pretty definite idea was formed of the whole matter, which was further strengthened by a report sent by the British Consul at Reval, to the effect that a large German steamer had appeared at that place, and that this steamer, after taking on board a quantity of naval stores, among which were several large cases of guns (?), 40 officers, and about 500 seamen, put out to sea on the 19th April."

The information relating to the "Cimbria" as above conveyed, though incorrect as regards some details, is yet pretty accurate in the main. The writer of it must have obtained his data from some official source in England. The British Vice-Consul at Reval, though perfectly innocent of having conveyed any information as to the movements of the "Cimbria," is seriously compromised by the incorrect statement made concerning him in the above letter, seeing that he is a Russian subject and consequently liable to be charged with treason.

(Signed) J. MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, May 6, 1878.

No. 245*.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 496.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Field-Marshal the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaivitch arrived here on Saturday, the 4th instant, from San Stefano.

His Imperial Highness was accompanied by Prince Eugene of Leuchtenberg, Generals Napolloitcheloky, Horschilmann, Naglowski, and a large military suite. He was received with military honour by the Emperor and all the members of the Imperial family.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 246.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 498.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Michell containing Russian naval intelligence, and giving the names of the eighty-four torpedo-boats ordered by the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—I likewise inclose an extract from the "Agence Russe" of this day, mentioning the work going on in the Arsenal at Cronstadt.

A. L

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

Memorandum respecting Russian Naval Intelligence.

THE iron-clad frigates "Kniaz Pojarski" and "Petropavlovsk" are under orders to proceed to the Pacific, where they are to join the Russian squadron cruizing in those waters.

Admiral Butakoff, one of the senior officers of the Baltic fleet, and for many years in command of the Russian squadron of iron-clads in the Baltic, has been appointed Commander of the naval and land forces to be employed in the defence of Sweaborg.

The torpedo-boats ordered by the Russian Government in Russia, Finland, Germany, and elsewhere, are to bear the following names:—

Orel	Kornshka	Kurissa	Chameleon
Yastreb	Schuka	Fazan	Yascheritsa
Kretchet	Sig	Induko	Salamandra
Sokol	Rinbchik	Pavlin	Cherepakha
Kopchik	Snigir	Straus	Akula
Pilin	Ziublik	Drokhva	Osoter
Sova	Vorobei	Aist	Beluga
Popugai	Konophianka	Teaplin	Sterlet
Diatel	Chijik	Becasse	Ugor
Cascadu	Chegluook	Jurawl	Treska
Voron	Kanareika	Chaika	Nalim
Colibri	Solovei	Albatross	Cambala
Orulch	Malinovka	Pelican	Sudak
Soroka	Lastochka	Goose	Seld
Voron	Golub	Leled	Som
Kukushka	Peropel	Utka	Sardinka
Dolga	Gorlitsa	Nyrok	Lestch
Ivornok	Kuropatka	Zmeya	Karas
Skvorets	Tetereff	Udav	Platva
Drozd	Glukhar	Uj	Piskar
Varel	Petukh	Crocodile	Losos

Or 84 boats in all.

The crew of each of these torpedo-boats will, according to an order issued on the 4th May, 1878, to the Russian fleet by the High Admiral, be constituted as follows:—

	No.
Commanding officer (naval, of superior grade)	1
Naval engineer	1
Helmsman (quartermaster)	1
Petty officers, or A.B.'s of the Torpedo Corps	2
Machinists	2
Stokers	2

Total, 2 officers and 7 petty officers and seamen for each boat.

Two of the steel clippers now being constructed for the Russian navy at the Baltic Ironworks, St. Petersburgh, have been respectively named the "Strelok" and "Plastun."

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

St. Petersburgh, May 5, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

CRONSTADT.—Le "Messager" de cette ville dit que l'Arsenal est en proie à une animation fébrile. On travaille nuit et jour. La liste des Commandants de vaisseaux est dressée. On n'armera pas cette année le détachement des enseignes de la marine. Ordre a été donné d'armer la frégate à vapeur "Smiélói" et aussi la frégate à hélice "Sviétlana."

No. 247.

Séfvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May* 10.)

(Particulière.)
Chère Excellence, *Constantinople, le* 1 *Mai*, 1878.

LE noble Marquis de Salisbury a développé, avec une remarquable lucidité, les dangers et les inconvénients de plus d'un genre des dispositions de l'Acte des Préliminaires de Paix de San Stéfano dans sa Circulaire du 1er du mois courant, qui fera époque dans les annales diplomatiques, et restera comme un monument impérissable de la justice qui caractérise le peuple Anglais. Elle nous dispense d'entrer à ce sujet dans des détails qui ne vous apprendront rien de nouveau, parce que la dite Circulaire n'a omis aucune des particularités que contient chacun des Articles de l'Acte sus-mentionné; par conséquent, il ne me reste plus que de vous signaler ce qui concerne le Monténégro. Voici la particularité qui s'attache à cette question. Votre Excellence sait que, d'après les Bases de Paix signés à Kyzanlik, le Gouvernement Ottoman était tenu de donner au Monténégro des équivalents pour tout le territoire que le sort des armes aurait fait tomber entre les mains des Monténégrins. Confiant dans les assurances du Général Ignatieff, et ne possédant pas des connaissances nécessaires, nous avons confirmé la possession des Monténégrins, sauf à être examinée plus tard, à l'égard des localités qui figurent dans l'Acte des Préliminaires de Paix comme si elles se trouvaient occupées par eux; tandis que nous voyons aujourd'hui que plusieurs de ces localités se trouvent entre les mains des autorités Impériales, ainsi nous nous réservons de faire en temps et lieux nos observations à ce sujet. Votre Excellence fera bien de faire connaître cette particularité à sa Seigneurie dans un de ses entretiens particuliers avec elle. Vous trouverez ci-joint la liste indiquant les noms de ces villes.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 248.

Mr. Jacob Shellaby to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

8, *Southampton Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W., May* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

DURING my first visit to England, twenty-three years ago, Lord Clarendon, at my request, very kindly wrote to Her Majesty's Consuls in Syria and Palestine, in behalf of the Samaritans at Nablûs.

The letters, of which I possess a copy, were dated "Foreign Office, April 4, 1855."

May I entreat your Lordship to renew this kindness, so that the small community of which I am now the chief, and which numbers only 137 souls, may be, as far as possible, under your protection.

We still dwell in our ancient home at the foot of Mount Gerezim in the midst of alien races, and only from England can we hope for friendly consideration. Earnestly hoping that you will grant my petition, I remain, &c.

(Signed) JACOB ESH SHELLABY,
Chief of the Samaritans of Nablûs, Palestine.

No. 249.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 10.)

My Lord, *India Office, May* 9, 1878.

I AM directed by Viscount Cranbrook to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's letter of the 3rd instant, inclosing copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of reported arrangements for a Russian expedition to Cabul and Peshawur.

In communicating these papers to the Government of India, Lord Cranbrook has, in accordance with the suggestion of the Marquis of Salisbury, called attention to the source from which the information in question has reached Mr. Layard, and to the opinion expressed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that much importance should not be attached to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 250.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 9, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from the Admiral in command of the Channel Squadron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Port Saïd, May* 8, 1878, 6 P.M.

ARRIVED in "Minotaur," with "Defence," this morning.

No. 251.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.[*]

(Strictly Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1878.

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome has telegraphed that the Consul at Ajaccio had reported his inability to discover that the rifles had been already shipped there, but that rifles were positively daily expected from Geneva by Genoese merchants, of which the Consul expected to receive further information.

The "Movimento" newspaper, the Consul reported, gave the names of the American vessels said to be chartered by Russia for Egypt, but no such vessels were known to the American Consul. Further information on this subject is, however, promised.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 252.

Consul Annesley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Hamburgh, May* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that careful inquiries disprove reports of fitting out of "Hammonia." Both it and the "Westphalia," and the "Thuringia," are lying up here being unemployed. The "Franconia" and "Rhennin" are reported sold by the same company to Havre.

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[*] A similar letter was addressed to the War Office.

No. 253.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 450.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1878.*

FOLLOWING has been sent to Consul Blunt:—

"Propositions contained in your telegram of 3rd instant for pacification of Thessaly are accepted by the Porte. With a few slight modifications they shall be forwarded to the Civil and Military authorities in Thessaly in the form of a proclamation to the people, the Porte guaranteeing Her Majesty's Embassy the strict observation of all that proclamation contains.

No. 254.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 453.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1878.*

WITH reference to despatches from Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to your Lordship, stating that Greek Government seems to be disposed to aid in pacification of Crete, I telegraphed to Consul Sandwith, some days ago, to inform me what compromise in his opinion could be come to with insurgents, as he appears to consider that the time is favourable for one. The Porte is willing to come to reasonable terms, and as soon as I learn from Mr. Sandwith I will inform your Lordship what, in my opinion, can be done.

No. 255.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 10, 1878.*

PRINCE CHARLES leaves Bucharest to-morrow morning for inspection of troops, which will probably occupy eight days at Pitesti and in Little Wallachia.

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sanderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 10, 1878.*

IT is said that the Russian authorities have forbidden the exportation of cereals by foreign merchants from the Dobrudscha; that they have levied a tax of 10 per cent. per ton on all vessels entering and leaving the river by Toulteha; that the navigation of the Pruth, contrary to the Treaty of Vienna, is intercepted by bridges, which are opened only once a week, which has raised the cost of freight from 3 to 10 fr.

Report by telegraph whether these statements are correct.

No. 257.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Washington, May 10, 1878.*

I LEARN on fair authority that General Beale, lately United States Minister at Vienna, who, I believe, is now at Paris, is proposing to Russian Government to arm a steamer at San Francisco, to give the command to Waddell, formerly of the "Shenandoah," and in the event of war to go out under the Russian flag and burn and destroy English ships.

No. 258.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 455.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 10, 1878, 6 P.M.*
(Private and Confidential.)

I HAVE seen Count Zichy who arrived last night. I understand from him that he is instructed to make following proposals to Sultan personally and to the Porte, viz.:—Bosnian refugees shall immediately return to Bosnia, accompanied by a force which will remain while measures for their settlement and security are taken; that as the Porte has not the means of providing them with the food which they will require for more than one year, and of enabling them to build houses and obtain seed and other necessaries for cultivating the fields, Austria will undertake to feed them; that the Austrian troops shall occupy the province as far as Mitrovitza; that the sovereignty and rights of the Sultan shall be in no way affected by the occupation, but shall be fully recognized; that in the event of a Congress it will be for Europe to decide upon the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Austria will accept the decision whatever it may be, that is to say, whether her occupation be permanent or not; that in case of war Austria holding Mitrovitza will be in a position to keep Montenegro and Servia in check, which will be of great advantage to the Porte. Such being the proposals now made by Austria, I will, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, advise the Porte to accept them, obtaining if possible in return a promise from Austria that she will advocate the line of the Balkan as the limit of the Bulgarian Principality. Count Zichy asserted to me that although his Government could not take the initiative in proposing this limit for Bulgaria, she would cordially support Her Majesty's Government if they proposed it. He further said that Austria was determined to resist proposed extension of Montenegro over Northern Albanian seaboard of Adriatic and the territory added to Servia.

No. 259.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 596 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 10, 1878.*

THE Turkish Ambassador came to the Foreign Office to-day to ask the advice of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the cession of Bosnia to Austria.

I stated to his Excellency that the matter was not one in which the English Government desired to interfere.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the *Pro-Memoria* which you were good enough to leave in my hands on the 24th ultimo, referring to certain matters in connection with the present state of affairs in Crete to which the Italian Consul in that island had recently called the attention of his Government, and requesting to know what steps Her Majesty's Government might be disposed to take at Constantinople in order to prevent collisions between the Cretans and the Ottoman troops so long as the pretensions of the former should be confined to the demands already submitted to the Porte for a more rigid application of the "Règlement Organique."

I have now the honour to state to you, M. l'Ambassadeur, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government will be willing to take any practicable measures which may be necessary to secure a cessation of the struggle; and they would be glad to be informed what are the precise demands of the Cretans which Italy proposes to support.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 261.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 39. Political.)

Beyrout, April 27, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosures which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the district of Tripoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 261.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, April 27, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch and a *précis* of its inclosures which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the district of Tripoli.

I also inclose an abstract of a private letter which I have received from Mr. Blanche, relative to the change of Governors at Tripoli; and I venture to recommend the remarks of that gentleman to your Excellency's consideration, as I believe they are dictated by a sincere desire for the public good.

I shall not fail to bring again these matters to the notice of the Governor-General, and urge his Excellency to put a stop, if possible, to the existing state of anarchy in that part of the vilayet, though I am well aware that the absence of an efficient police force is the principal cause of their continuing to exist.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 261.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Abstract.)

Tripoli, le 23 Avril, 1878.

AZIZ PACHA est remplacé, mais n'est pas encore parti. Le pauvre homme quitte Tripoli sans regret. Il n'y tenait plus. La fièvre ne le quittait pas, il était atteint d'une nostalgie inquiétante, et trop bien justifiée par les événements, par la perte de ses biens personnels en Bulgarie, par le vilain pâté d'affaires qu'il avait en main dans son sandjack, il n'était plus en état de faire face à la situation. L'énergie, le sang froid, le coup d'œil, tout semblait l'avoir abandonné. Il a senti cela, et il est heureux pour lui et pour nous qu'il ait renoncé à ses fonctions. Il a encore été attristé au moment de résigner par un coup désagréable: le Valy lui a infligé le plus véhément desaveu pour avoir continué à expédier des Tcherkesses à Hama, malgré les ordres donnés. Mais s'il a manqué à un devoir hiérarchique, il est certain qu'il a obéi à un devoir supérieur à celui-là. Il devait avant tout sauver la ville et son sandjack des dangers de cette invasion continue. Il me disait lui-même: Qu'on cesse de m'en envoyer, et je cesserai d'en expédier. Il avait alors sur les bras 6,000 de ces réfugiés; après les 10,000 déjà expédiés, sans un sou en caisse pour pouvoir leur procurer du pain, et la ville se trouvait littéralement affamée par une cherté sans exemple. Vous voyez ce que cela eût pu produire, s'il se fût borné à attendre de Damas de l'argent et des ordres pour se débarrasser de ces faméliques peu endurants. Il craint que le Valy ne lui fasse tort à Constantinople, à cause de cet incident, et il m'a bien prié de vous exposer la chose pour que vous vouliez bien lui procurer un petit concours en informant l'Ambassade, si c'est possible. J'accède à son désir d'autant plus volontier que je l'ai poussé moi-même à nous délivrer au plus tôt des Circassiens, envers et contre les ordres de Damas.

Rafik Bey est arrivé par terre, de Beyrout, et a pris possession de son poste comme gérant. Je l'ai vu deux fois, et il paraît être un jeune et aimable garçon doué de bonne volonté. Mais voilà malheureusement qu'on annonce l'arrivée d'un titulaire nommé à Stamboul. Dieu sait ce que cela va être: probablement un Turc nouveau-venu, ignorant le pays, peut-être la langue, et qui va tout abandonner à ses Medjlis. Rafik Bey, au moins, est Damasquin et a été Moutsarrif à Hama. Il connaît donc parfaitement son terrain, il connaît personnellement le Cheik Khalid dont je vous parle officiellement; et il est convaincu que les Chrétiens ont tout autant de raisons de se plaindre de lui qu'il en a lui-même de se plaindre des bandits de sa religion, mais non de sa race. Il m'a assuré qu'il a la volonté et les moyens de les remettre tous à la raison, et qu'il ira lui-même sur les lieux à cet effet. Mais s'il n'a plus que quelques jours à rester en fonctions, tout reste dans le *statu quo*. Que faire à tout cela? Veiller par acquit de conscience et attendre. Il semble que nous assistions à l'écroulement d'un grand corps vermoulu.

Inclosure 3 in No. 261.

Substance of two Petitions addressed to the Governor of Tripoli by the Mufti of El-Hosn, and forwarded through Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, with a request to support the Application.

THE lawless, mean, and molesting acts of Assad Aga-el-Ahmed and his brother Mohamed Aga, with their banditti, are matters of public notoriety. All these brigands live in the village Talkikah and under the auspices and protection of the aforesaid two Agas; they roam about plundering, pilfering, murdering, and disturbing public peace.

I have been one of the victims for some time past. Once they fell upon my farmers at El-Basas, and, after wounding several of them, carried away ten oxen and other effects; one of the farmers was so severely wounded that he died soon after the assault. At another time they rushed upon my farmers at El-Hara, and carried off twenty-five oxen. From the village Shuahid they took fifty sheep and ten oxen belonging to me. From my village El-Basas they drove sixty sheep and twenty oxen, after beating the villagers to death. From the village Buedir they robbed me of five oxen and twenty sheep, after having destroyed the village and carried the timber that was in it. From the village El-Komeir they pillaged twenty sheep and ten oxen, &c.

Besides oxen and sheep, they extend their brigandage to visiting the fields during the crop season, and carrying away whatever they can lay hold on. My losses in this respect amount to 1,000 shunibuls of Indian corn.

The local authorities, to whom I made my complaints, could find no remedy and procure no redress to these grievances. I therefore apply to you, begging that the said Agas and their men be brought to trial before the Méglis, where I am prepared to appear and prove these complaints.

Inclosure 4 in No. 261.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

Tripoli, le 20 Avril, 1878.

M. le Consul-Général,

DANS mon précédent rapport j'ai eu l'honneur de vous transmettre diverses requêtes témoignant de l'état de désordre dans lequel se trouve présentement le Sandjak de Tripoli. L'une de ces requêtes était signée par tout le clergé de Sofita et du Hossen, et accusait une longue série d'individus Musulmans de ces districts. L'un d'entr'eux le plus considérable par sa position était le Cheik Khalid Zembi, habitant la Kobat-el-Hossen, et Mufti du district. Il a en outre un titre qui équivaut à celui de gardien de la vieille forteresse.

Or, ce même Cheik Khalid vient à son tour de m'écrire une lettre dans laquelle il se plaint de ses co-accusés. Il prétend être lui-même victime de leurs déprédations et de leurs brigandages. Je le connais personnellement depuis plus de vingt ans, et c'est comme à une ancienne connaissance qu'il s'adresse à moi dans ces circonstances critiques. Il m'assure qu'il a plusieurs fois porté ses plaintes aux autorités de Hama et de Tripoli, sans obtenir même une réponse; et il m'envoie sous son pli une requête ouverte au Moutsarrif, en me priant de la remettre et de l'appuyer. Il y fait

l'énumération des méfaits qu'il a subis. Il en nomme les auteurs, et demande d'être appelé lui-même pour les accuser en face si l'autorité veut les arrêter.

C'est un des leurs, Mufti du district, qui parle ainsi. Qu'il soit lui-même coupable, comme l'assurent les Chrétiens; qu'il soit seulement victime, comme il le prétend, peu importe. Nous avons dans ce qu'il écrit des documents importants, qui confirment sans les atténuer, les plaintes des Chrétiens, et témoignent de la gravité du mal. J'ai cru pouvoir prendre copie de sa requête au Moutsarrif, et je vous l'envoie ci-inclus, avec la copie de la lettre qu'il m'écrit. J'ai remis moi-même au nouveau Gouverneur, Rafick Beik, la prière qui lui est officiellement adressée par le Cheik Khalid, en lui faisant comprendre la nécessité d'agir avec vigueur pour couper court au mal. Il est Damasquin, et a été Moutsarrif à Hama; de sorte qu'il est très au courant de toutes les affaires de ces districts. Il y a toute apparence qu'il a la volonté de bien faire. Néanmoins il serait à souhaiter que cette grave question de sécurité publique ne restât pas exclusivement livrée à son initiative; et qu'il fût fortement stimulé à agir par l'autorité supérieure. Il y aurait urgence, à mon avis, à ce que les bandits fussent arrêtés et confrontés avec leurs accusateurs, surtout avec le Cheik Khalid, non dans les Cazas de Sofita ou d'Akkar, où ce sont eux-mêmes qui forment les tribunaux, mais à Tripoli même.

Mohammed Beik-el-Mohammed, envoyé par Aziz Pacha comme Caimacam provisoire à Akkar avec des dragons, a déjà arrêté dix-sept individus compromis dans les assassinats de Hazîr et de el Aïoun. Cette mesure de vigueur a visiblement intimidé les bandits. Mais il faudrait que Mohammed Beik fût soutenu; qu'il fût confirmé dans ses fonctions et encouragé à agir énergiquement. Or, déjà dans nos Medjlis, une opposition Musulmane s'est formée contre lui, précisément à l'occasion de ces arrestations; et il n'est pas douteux que les meilleures dispositions locales ne deviennent stériles, si l'autorité supérieure n'intervient activement.

Du côté de Djebli les choses sont au pire. Beaucoup de Chrétiens, surtout parmi les riches, sont en fuite. J'en ai vu plusieurs à Tripoli qui m'ont raconté, à la charge du Caimacam, des actes de la plus odieuse tyrannie. Il semble que ce fonctionnaire ait pris à tâche d'obliger les Chrétiens à évacuer le pays, pour mettre les Circassiens à leur place. La ruine de ce pays est imminente, si le Gouvernement ne se décide au plustôt à y envoyer un autre Caimacam.

La démission d'Aziz Pacha, offerte depuis longtemps à diverses reprises, a été enfin acceptée. Avant de résigner ses fonctions, il a reçu un blâme très-vif du Valy, pour avoir expédié des Tcherkesses à Hama, malgré les ordres. Il y en avait 6,000 à Tripoli; on en annonçait d'autres. La caisse était vide. Le pain et le blé manquaient en ville. C'était la famine à courte échéance. Aziz Pacha s'est inspiré avant tout de la nécessité de sauver le public en éloignant le plus vite les réfugiés. La population de Tripoli ne peut que lui en être reconnaissante. Il serait contraire à l'équité qu'il subît une disgrâce pour cette désobéissance. Nous avons encore 1,200 Tcherkesses environ, et comme le blé est retombé à des prix modérés, on s'aperçoit à peine de leur présence.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

P.S. 24 *Avril*.—Le Cheik Khalid vient de m'adresser une seconde lettre, en me priant d'en remettre encore une seconde au Moutessarif. Il y signale de nouveaux faits de rapine et de violence. Rafick Beik ne semble pas satisfait que des communications de cette nature lui arrivent de cette manière. Il assure néanmoins que des mesures sont déjà prises pour remédier au mal. Je vous envoie ci-jointe en copie les nouveaux documents de Cheik Khalid.

No. 262.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 40. Political.)
Beyrout, April 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting

on certain intrigues in Mount Lebanon; and I trust your Lordship will approve of the steps I have taken with a view to put a stop to these intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, April 28, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have been told that the Porte has decided to pay at least a portion of the subsidy due to the Lebanon, though it is difficult to ascertain where the money for that purpose is to come from.

As I anticipated in my former despatch, intrigues have been actively promoted in the Lebanon by the two Maronite Bishops, especially by Bishop Butros Bistany.

About three weeks ago a self-constituted deputation (the members of which were nearly all dismissed functionaries) of the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kamar came to Beyrout with petitions addressed to the Consuls-General of the Great Powers, praying that the sons of the Administration might be permanently established in their town.

As their demand was so preposterous, and as I was well aware that they were inspired by Bishop Butros, I tore up the petition, and refused to see the deputation, but, having learnt that they had been received by my colleagues and had other grievances to complain of, I eventually consented to give them an audience. At the interview I pointed out to them that, however advantageous it might be for them to have the seat of Government transferred to Deir-el-Kamar, such a course would entail great inconvenience to most of the other inhabitants of the mountain, especially to those of the northern districts during the winter months, and discussed with them the whole question relating to the residence of the Governor-General, with which I am well acquainted. I will not, however, trouble your Excellency with all the arguments used on both sides, as the matter is a purely local one. I can merely state that I failed to convince them against their foregone and interested conclusions inspired by the Bishop, and they equally failed to shake my convictions, which are based on the general welfare of the Lebanon.

Their other grievances were, first, that the Governor-General had dismissed the Mudir of Deir-el-Kamar, with whom the inhabitants were perfectly satisfied, and replaced him by a person who was objectionable to them. I maintained that Rustem Pasha had a perfect right to change his employés, so long as he conformed to the Règlement, which he had done in this instance; and as I know personally both the ex-Mudir and the newly-appointed one, I certainly am of opinion that the change is advantageous to the public service, since the former functionary is weak in character, and allowed himself to be more influenced by the wishes of the inhabitants than by the orders he received from his chief.

Their second grievance was, that the new Mudir had, in obedience to the orders of the Governor-General, seized all the accounts and the treasury of the municipality of Deir-el-Kamar, and transmitted the former to the Central Administration for verification, which the deputation asserted was contrary to existing regulations, and that the town had a right to manage its own internal affairs. This is true in a certain sense; but the municipality is bound to furnish an annual account of the receipts and expenditure for examination to the Central Administration, which had not been done for nine years; and it was this which led the Pasha to adopt the severe measure of seizing the accounts. These, on careful examination, have been found full of irregularities and malversations, which fully justified the extreme step taken by the authorities, as I pointed out to the deputation, though I failed to convince them.

They then advanced some general and puerile complaints against the administration and personal character of Rustem Pasha, and upon my inviting them to substantiate by proofs their complaints, they replied that if I made inquiries I should be able to ascertain the truth of their statements. I then explained to them that it was for them to prove their own case; but as they had failed to do so, I could but consider their complaints as frivolous and unfounded, and advised them to return to their homes and remain thankful for the privileges which they enjoyed under the existing regulations, compared with the other provinces of the Ottoman Empire, of which Mount Lebanon forms a part; otherwise if they, by listening to evil and interested

counsels, created any serious agitation in the country, for which I could see no sufficient cause, they might find themselves deprived of the great advantages secured to them by the intervention of foreign Powers. With this advice, which was unpalatable, I summarily dismissed the deputation, much dissatisfied with the result of the interview.

I have since ascertained that my remarks have produced a salutary effect, especially as I find that some of my colleagues had given them as little encouragement as I did; though as they have not had so long an experience as I have in the affairs of Mount Lebanon, they were not perhaps quite so firm and decided in their language such as I was able to assume.

Other petitions had been for some time in circulation for signature, setting forth grievances more or less unfounded, and promoted by the two Bishops; but the small amount of encouragement and support which was given to the complaints of the people of Deir-el-Kamar has had the effect of causing the intrigues of the Bishops to be carried on with less activity of late, though attempts have been made to engage the discontented amongst the Druses of the Shouf to sign these documents; and although the number likely to do so is small and insignificant, yet I consider it would be advisable for me, circumstances permitting, to take a short tour through the Druse district, in order that, by my presence and influence on the spot, I may be able effectually to put a stop to these intrigues which, although they can have but one result—failure—keep the country in a state of agitation, which seriously affects its prosperity and the well-being of the people in general.

I trust your Excellency will approve of my proceedings in these matters, as I am only guided by what I believe to be the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, namely, the maintenance of peace and good order in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 263.

Acting Consul-General Ward to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 84. Political.)
Bucharest, May 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a Circular which has appeared in the Roumanian "Moniteur," addressed by M. Bratiano, the President of the Ministry and Minister of the Interior, to the Prefects of the districts, instructing them what attitude to assume in dealings with the Russian authorities and troops at present in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Circular addressed by M. Bratiano to the Prefects of Districts.

MM. les Préfets,

THERE is an opinion prevalent in some quarters that the conditions of peace between the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan of Turkey put an end to the Convention concluded between Russia and this country on the 16th May, 1877. Should this impression become general it might cause some of our citizens, and, perhaps, some of our authorities, to believe that they are no longer bound to fulfil the stipulations entered into by this Government in regard to assisting the passage of the Russian army through our country, thereby causing disagreements which could only result disastrously to ourselves. To fulfil most religiously the engagements which devolve upon us by the Convention is, MM. les Préfets, not only our duty, but also our interest. In this way only can Russia be called upon in return to strictly fulfil her engagement with reference to Roumania, which constitutes our shield of protection until the European Areopagus has definitely declared itself upon our future destiny. There are undoubtedly some of the stipulations of the Convention above-mentioned, which have ceased to be in force, in consequence of the end of the war—such, for instance, as those

calling upon us to assist the Russian military operations, as expressed in Article XVII of the said Convention; also the Article XVIII, which says, "that it is well understood that troops will not remain in localities where they are not compelled to stop for rest, or on account of obstacles which forcibly impede their onward progress." Among the obstacles which might hinder the march of the Russian troops are those which an enemy might interpose in their way, or those resulting from their operations against the enemy. These obstacles being all set aside by the cessation of the war, it is now understood that no excuse can be urged for the stationing of Russian troops beyond the necessity of repose, or in consequence of ordinary impediments to their onward march. Keep in mind, MM. les Préfets, the requirements of the Convention now applicable to the present situation, for I require you to give the most stringent orders, when asked for, to facilitate the transport of Russian troops and for finding them quarters when on the march, as well as for procuring them necessaries for their entertainment when compelled to stop at any place for repose, or on account of obstacles independent of their own wishes. At the same time, however, you must bear in mind that it is your duty to refuse any requests for assistance when Russian troops desire to remain in any place a longer period or under different conditions than those stipulated in our Convention. In any such case you will report to me immediately. By Article I of the Convention the Russian troops are assured of the same treatment as that reserved for friendly armies. With pride we are to-day able to state that in the execution of this stipulation the nation and its constituted authorities have vied with each other on all occasions to show their fidelity to the engagements taken in the name of the country. The nation desired in this way to set aside even the slightest suspicion that it did not know how to fulfil most religiously all duties contracted in its name by its representatives and the Government. The superior Russian authorities did not see without inquietude that from the beginning we desired to make a new departure in national customs by attempting to fulfil our obligation without suspending one of the liberties of the public—namely, by not enforcing strict martial law—in a crisis as grave as that in which we found ourselves. In face, however, of the experiment made by us, the Russian authorities themselves have been constrained to express their satisfaction with the good treatment they have received everywhere during the time of the war. In Roumania some dissatisfaction has at times been caused by the country being called upon to respond to the necessities of both the Russian and Roumanian armies—a weight which might reasonably be thought beyond her strength. But all this has been with the free will of the people, as no coercion could have been employed in consequence of the army being on or beyond our frontiers. The whole of Europe has noted all these facts, and admired not only the bravery of our army, but the regularity with which all our domestic institutions have worked in a situation the most painful and dangerous in which a country can find itself placed. Some incidents of a regrettable character have occurred since the war has ceased, and chief among these I desire to mention the manner in which were treated during the conclusion of the armistice, and in making the Treaty of Peace, and the desire expressed by the Russian Government to take Bessarabia from us and to give us in exchange the Dobrudscha, as well as some menaces to which it has given expression concerning us. These incidents have certainly been of a character to cause anxiety and dissatisfaction among Roumanians: but it is our duty not to seek to put an end to this anxiety and dissatisfaction, but to do all in our power to prevent its degenerating into agitation, and, more than that, to prevent its producing any action, individual or collective, of a nature to provoke a conflict, which must certainly be prejudicial to this country. You may bring to the knowledge of all your subordinates, MM. les Préfets, that the Prince, the Parliament, and the Government have not for one moment lost sight of their duty in this grave emergency, but have done all in their power to defend the rights and interests of the nation. It is hoped that the great European Areopagus before which the late questions of the East will be brought will consider the unanimous desires of the Roumanians, and that Russia herself will renounce her demands in consideration of the fact that our opposition is due only to the belief that it is necessary to secure the safety and salvation of our country. To convince them of this it is necessary that every Roumanian should carefully exercise self-command, and, in face of all provocation, from whatever source it may come, preserve in public as well as in private, moderation of language, avoiding discussions with our Russian guests which might degenerate into disputes and bring up unjust suspicions in their minds as to our future intentions towards them.

In a word, every Roumanian should bear in mind the responsibility resting upon

him should he in any way provoke a conflict, which, in present circumstances, would ruin us and compromise us in the eyes of all Europe, especially at the present moment, when the whole of Europe is seeking to avoid a war and secure a peace so necessary for the prosperity and progress of the entire world. Then tell your subordinates to preserve their firmness and calmness, and to have faith that the Prince, the Parliament, and the Government will, in any case, do their duty, and that we hope that our rights will come out unimpaired from the crisis through which we are now passing.

(Signed) J. C. BRATIANO.

No. 264.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 159. Political. Secret and Confidential.)

Alexandria, May 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE received all your Lordship's cypher telegrams, as well as those from Her Majesty's Representatives at Rome and Athens, respecting the movements and proceedings of the Russian officers who are reported to be chartering ships and purchasing arms which are to be sent to Egypt; and I beg to assure your Lordship that a strict watch will be kept at all the Egyptian ports for the arrival of all vessels or individuals answering to the descriptions given.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 265.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Odessa, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 24, Political, of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a despatch to me in original from Mr. Vice-Consul Webster, showing the excessive amount of the indemnity claimed by Russia from Turkey in return for damage done to the south coast of Russia, to her export commerce, to her industry, and to her railways.

This despatch embraces the points I had intended to examine, and from Mr. Webster's knowledge of the Russian language, he has been able to examine documents for which I should have to await translations. His great experience, moreover, of this country, gives a value to his remarks on such a subject, so I think it needless to send a separate report myself.

Since I received the despatch from Mr. Webster, he has forwarded to me a translation of an interesting article from the "Petersburgh Gazette" of the $\frac{1}{13}$th April, herewith inclosed, which, in accounting for the greatly increased revenue of the Russian railways in 1877, gives as one reason for such increase, the war.

In the face of this well-reasoned article, it appears strange to claim compensation for losses incurred by the railways on account of the war.

Mr. Webster also shows that the export commerce of Russia attained a higher figure in 1877 than in any previous year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 265.

Translation of Article from "Petersburgh Gazette" on Profits of Russian Railways in 1877.

THE latest returns of the gross receipts of the Russian railways, published by the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Ways of Communication, furnish us with the totals for 1877, which year was a very remarkable one, inasmuch as the gross revenue never previously, in one single year, took such an enormous stride in advance.

Previously, the yearly increase used to be from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 roubles; but last year the sum increased by 44,000,000 roubles, *i.e.*, from 146,000,000 roubles in 1876, to 190,544,000 roubles in 1877.

This growth is the more remarkable, as the network of railways in 1877 was not increased very much. On the 1st January, 1877, this network consisted of 18,135 versts, and on the 1st January, 1878, of 19,281 versts; *i.e.*, new lines to the extent of 1,146 versts had been opened, of which the most important were the Orenburg Railway, 508 versts, and the Vistula Railway, 502 versts, the latter of which commenced running trains in the middle of August.

The following lines also were opened: Borovitch, 29 versts; Riga-Tukkum, 54 versts; and two branch lines, one on the Lozovo-Sevastopol Railway, and the other on the Poti-Tiflis Railway, the former of 13 and the latter of 7 versts. We might almost count the Fastoff-Zumenka line as opened in 1877, as it commenced its operations at the end of 1876.

The new lines gave a gross revenue of less than 4,000,000 roubles, consequently, the increase in the revenue of the old roads amounted to 40,000,000 roubles. The average revenue per verst rose from 8,252 to 10,052 roubles; a rise, in the course of the year, of 22 per cent.

Although the causes of such a decided change are not yet stated in detail, a careful survey of the table supplied by the Statistical Department finds important information on this head.

It would appear that the increase of revenue was almost universal. A decrease is noted only on three railways, but it is so insignificant as scarcely to merit attention; it is shown in the revenue of the Moscow-Jaroslavl line of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the Vologda of 1 per cent., and the little Riga-Bolderad line of 3$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

The following lines, the revenues of which increased, merit particular attention:—

The revenue of the Brest-Graevo line increased 112 per cent.; the Rostoff-Vladikavkaz, 114 per cent.; the Fastoff, 99 per cent.; the Kieff-Brest, 81 per cent.; the Orel-Vitebsk, 73 per cent.; the Landwerovo-Romen, 70 per cent.; the Dinaburg-Vitebsk, 67 per cent.; the Odessa, 61 per cent.; and the Riga-Dinaburg, 58 per cent.

The smallest increase was observable in the following lines:—

The Moscow-Nijninovgorod, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; the Baltic, 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the Volga-Don, 1 per cent.; and the Shina-Ivanoff, 1 per cent. On the remaining lines the increase varied from 10 to 50 per cent.

From the table we see that the lines, of which the revenue increased, were principally those which carried grain for exportation—the Orel-Riga, Kieff-Graevo, and the lines leading from Little Russia to Prussia—and also the lines on which troops and war material were transported, such as the Odessa and the Rostoff-Vladikavkaz. The enormous increase on the Fastoff line is explained by the fact that it had scarcely commenced operations in 1876.

Thus, as far as we can see, the principal causes of the increase were:—

1. A good crop, and a demand abroad for our grain; and

2. In some places, the war. The augmented receipts of the Odessa Railway may be explained by the increased transport of grain, if not to Odessa, at any rate, to Austria.

We observe that the smallest increase was on our eastern railways, which pass through countries where the crops last year were not so good, and on the Baltic line, where the import trade is more considerable than the export of grain.

The increasing growth of the revenue, of which we are now treating, might enable many of our railways to better their affairs and reduce the Government guarantee. Both these results might be arrived at, without raising the rates of freight or introducing a metallic Tariff, which many interested parties are trying to do. All that is required is, that the Railway Board should get off, if only to a slight extent, their traditional habit of augmenting their expenses at every convenient (and often just the reverse) opportunity. Unless they do this, no improvement can take place, and even a raising of the Tariff will not do any good. Bearing in mind the previous and long-continued policy of our railway administrators, in the face of the exceptionally favourable and unprecedented receipts of 1877, we are not prepared to predict a material advantage to the State from the railway operations of 1877.

In conclusion, it will not be amiss to consider another phase of our subject, *i.e.*, the prospects of our new lines. The Orenburg gave a revenue of 1,910,000 roubles, or 3,760 roubles per verst; the Fastoff, 1,217,000 roubles, or 3,616 roubles per verst; the

Vistula, 701,800 roubles, or 3,025 roubles per verst. Such results from the first year of opening cannot be considered bad.

It was expected that the opening of the Orenburg Railway would have influenced the Morshansk and Sizran line, of which it is the continuation, thus forming a transit line from Orenburg to Great Russia; but these expectations were not verified, and the Morshansk and Sizran line did not become a transit line in particular, the increase of traffic being only 18 per cent., which may be accounted for by the good crops. From this we may conclude that the trade of Orenburg does not gravitate westward, and that the importance of those lines will be principally local.

(Signed) R. C. WEBSTER, *Vice-Consul.*

British Vice-Consulate, Kherson, April/May 9, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 265.

Vice-Consul Webster to Consul-General Stanley.

Kherson, April 19/31, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your request that I should report to you my opinion of the indemnity of 400,000,000 roubles, exacted from Turkey, as per Article XIX, § B, of the Preliminary Treaty of Peace, signed at San Stefano, between Russia and Turkey, as compensation for damage done to the south coast of Russia, to her export commerce, to her industry, and to her railways, I have the honour to state that I consider the indemnity fixed to be far exceeding the losses really incurred, as I shall endeavour to show in my present report, taking *seriatim* the items mentioned.

1.—*Damage done to the South Coast of Russia.*

As no bombardment took place, beyond some random shots, fired at batteries near Eupatoria and Theodosia, the damage done to a few houses and to two or three coasting craft, captured or sunk, would be amply covered by an indemnity of, say, 10,000*l.*, or, at the exchange of 10 roubles per 1*l.*, 100,000 roubles.

2.—*Damage done to Russia's Export Commerce.*

During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78, the export trade of Russia, notwithstanding the blockade of the southern ports, was greater than ever it had been before.

In 1877, more than 30,500,000 tchetverts (22,000,000 quarters) of grain, worth about 250,000,000 roubles, were exported. In the course of a single year, such an enormous quantity of grain had never previously been exported from Russia.

Grain.—The most prosperous year in the grain trade was 1874, when Russia exported 26,750,000 tchetverts (19,260,000 quarters), worth 212,000,000 roubles, or less, by 3,750,000 tchetverts, worth 38,000,000 roubles, than in 1877.

Flax.—The best previous year known for this article was 1870, when 57,000,000 roubles' worth was exported. In 1877, 11,250,000 poods = 405,000,000 lbs., valued at 60,000,000 roubles' were exported.

Timber.—The same quantity of timber was exported in 1877 as in 1876; *i.e.*, 31,000,000 roubles' worth each year.

Sugar.—In consequence of the failure of the beet-root crop in Western Europe, and the drawback on excise being returned by the Russian Government, 20,000,000 roubles' worth of raw beet-root sugar was exported from Russia in 1877. Sugar was formerly an article of import.

The total exports from Russia in Europe in 1877 amounted to 476,000,000 roubles,* against 400,000,000 roubles in 1876; and in 1874, which, up to last year, was considered the most prosperous year of all, 431,000,000 roubles.

The result of the exports of Russia in 1877 was that they exceeded the imports by 190,000,000 roubles. Thus Russia's foreign trade in 1877 took an active character, whereas before, during a long period of years, it had only a passive meaning.

Taking the foregoing into consideration, there was no damage done to the export commerce of Russia, generally speaking. The losses sustained by merchants at Odessa and other southern ports were, therefore, commercial, and may be classed as losses of what they might otherwise have gained.

* The total exports in 1877, including those from Russia in Asia, exceeded 500,000,000 roubles.

But I do not admit that the South Russian grain merchants have lost money by the war.

As soon as it was known, in April last year, that the southern ports would be blockaded, grain rose to unheard-of prices (in London the price of Odessa Ghirca wheat rose from 50*s.* to 68*s.* per quarter), handsome profits were realized, and the stocks of grain in South Russia were completely cleared out.

Then came the new crops.

I admit that, from August 1877 to February 1878, prices of grain were very low. It was not, however, the speculators who suffered, but the agriculturalists (proprietors, farmers, and peasants) who were obliged to sell. When the blockade was raised, in February of the present year, the grain merchants of South Russia again realized enormous profits.

It is calculated that about 25 per cent. of the total exports of Russia are shipped from the southern ports, consequently, the maximum quantity of grain which South Russian growers were forced to realize at low prices during the before-mentioned period cannot be estimated at more than 5,000,000 tchetverts.

3.—*Damage done to the Industry of Russia.*

The duty on foreign merchandize being now collected in gold, the total imports into Russia in 1877 amounted to 310,000,000 roubles, or 38 per cent. less than in 1875, consequently the manufactures of Russia are protected by prohibitive duties. The mills of Russia were fully occupied in 1877 making cloth for the army, &c., and a new field was opened to the Moscow calico manufacturers in Roumania and Bulgaria.

In the towns of Southern Russia, properly speaking, industrial enterprise does not exist, if we except agricultural machine works and breweries. There are flour mills in abundance, but these have had plenty of work to do ever since the war broke out. In my Table, however, I allow for losses on industrial undertakings in the south in general, and at Odessa and Kherson in particular; although, in many instances, losses which will be put down to the war are attributable to anterior causes.

4.—*Damage done to the Russian Railways.*

The railways of Russia during the Russo-Turkish War were fully occupied. Quantities of grain which should have been shipped from the Black Sea ports were sent from the south to Königsberg and Riga. The same remark applies to wool, large quantities of which were exported through Austria.

The supply of coal from England being cut off, an enormous demand for Russian coal from the Donetz Valley sprung up, and under the pressure of this and other traffic the Lozovo-Sevastopol line completely broke down.

In general, the railways of South Russia during the past year had not sufficient rolling-stock for their requirements.

In 1877 the receipts of the Odessa Railway, which extends to Ungeni and Volotchisk on the west, and to Elizabethgrad on the east, were greater than in any previous year, and exceeded 11,000,000 roubles.

For the transport of merchandize the Odessa Railway received, in 1877, 6,000,000 roubles; for the transport of war material, 1,800,000 roubles; troops and artillery, 1,500,000 roubles; passengers, 1,700,000 roubles; luggage, 200,000 roubles; sundries, 250,000 roubles.

The Russo-Turkish war alone brought to the Odessa shareholders gross receipts amounting to 3,300,000 roubles and their first dividend. Since the line was opened they have never had such a revenue. In the best years, the gross receipts of the Odessa Railway had never exceeded 7,000,000 roubles.

The gross receipts of the Riga-Dinaburg Railway were, in 1877, 3,232,881 roubles; in 1870, 2,045,080 roubles; in 1875, 2,135,029 roubles.

Losses sustained by the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company.

When peace is restored, it is said that this Company may liquidate its affairs, or, in any case, as it will then no longer retain its semi-official character, it will cease to be subsidized by the Russian Government (instead of paying a subsidy, the Russian Government will probably use the money for the purpose of developing its Black Sea fleet).

During the blockade, the Company were obliged to stop their boats from running to the Crimean and Caucasus ports to Constantinople, the ports of Asia Minor,

Alexandria, the Mediterranean ports, the United Kingdom and Continent, and to China.

It is true that many of their old steamers were bought and others hired by the Russian Government at exorbitant rates. Still, as this grand national undertaking has been thrown out of gear, and many hundreds of people suddenly cast upon their own resources, the claims may be large, so we may fix the indemnity at 5,000,000 roubles.

For my figures of the exports and imports of Russia, I am indebted to the "Petersburgh Exchange Gazette" of the $\frac{25}{13}$th March, 1878, No. 67, and for the particulars of the Odessa Railway, to the "Odessa Messenger" of the $\frac{1}{13}$th April, 1878, No. 77.

The crops in Russia in 1877, and especially in the south, were exceptionally good, and high rates were paid for labourers to get them in. The country has suffered from the war to a certain extent, but I think its commercial losses would be fully compensated by an indemnity of 3,000,000*l.*, or, at the exchange of 10 roubles per *l.* sterling, 30,000,000 roubles, which, of course, is independent of the claim of the Russian Government for war expenses.

TABLE of the estimated commercial losses sustained by South Russia, in consequence of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877–78.

	£	£
ODESSA.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of the blockade	200,000	
Loss to house owners; depreciation of rent and property through fear of bombardment	200,000	
Loss to industrial establishments, including the Odessa Waterworks ..	100,000	
		500,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 5,000,000 r.		
NICOLAIEFF.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade		60,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 600,000 r.		
KHERSON.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade	30,000	
Loss to proprietors of saw-mills, which saw planks for the different ports of the Black Sea	10,000	
		40,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 400,000 r.		
ALEXEIEFF.		
Loss to the town in consequence of blockade		6,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 60,000 r.		
EUPATORIA.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade	10,000	
Depreciation of house-rent	2,500	
Damage done by bombardment	2,500	
		15,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 150,000 r.		
SEVASTOPOL.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade	25,000	
Depreciation of house-rent	5,000	
		30,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 300,000 r.		
JALTA.		
Loss to the town, and depreciation of house-rent		10,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 100,000 r.		
THEODOSIA.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade	10,000	
Depreciation of house-rent	5,000	
		15,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 150,000 r.		
KERTCH.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade		10,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 100,000 r.		
BERDIANSK.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade		25,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 250,000 r.		

ENGLISH MARIUPOL.		
Loss to the towns, in consequence of blockade		10,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 100,000 r.		
TAGANROG.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade		60,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 600,000 r.		
ROSTOFF.		
Loss to the town, in consequence of blockade		50,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 500,000 r.		
SHIPPING INTEREST.		
250 coasters and private steamers and barges belonging to the Lower Dnieper, Kherson, Nicolaieff, and Odessa. Losses through being laid up by blockade	50,000	
250 coasters and private steamers and barges belonging to the Azoff ports, which in consequence of blockade did not dare to venture into the Black Sea	40,000	
Vessels destroyed by Turkish men-of-war, and sundries	10,000	
		100,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 1,000,000 r.		
RUSSIAN STEAM NAVIGATION AND TRADING COMPANY.		
Losses through blockade of the Black Sea		500,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 5,000,000 r.		
LANDED INTEREST.		
Estimated loss to proprietors, farmers, and agriculturalists, on 5,000,000 tchetverts of grain, sold at 2 r. per tchetvert cheaper than it would have been had the blockade not been in force*		1,000,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 10,000,000 r.		
RAILWAYS.		
Losses which may have been sustained		80,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 800,000 r.		
TRADE INTERESTS.		
Loss of trade to merchants,* shopkeepers, and industrial enterprise generally		500,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 5,000,000 r.		
Total		3,000,000
At exchange of 10 r. per £, equal to 30,000,000 r.		

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. WEBSTER.

No. 266.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 27. Political.)
Odessa, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to send on the 4th instant a telegram from Nicolaieff, to the effect that the roads were in perfect order.

I thought it desirable to see them for myself, as the state of the roads throughout South Russia may be considered the same as those in the district I travelled over, with the exception of those in Bessarabia, which require longer to dry after rain.

Another reason induced me to make the journey by land from Kherson to Nicolaieff, namely, that I had heard that batteries had been erected half-way between the two places commanding the land-approach to Nicolaieff from Kherson.

This is not the case, and Nicolaieff is unfortified on the left bank of the river, except immediately near the river, so as to command the river-approach.

The old double line of ditch and embankment made during the Crimean war, and extending from the Boug to the Ingoul, exists, but not a gun is mounted. These lines are about three miles from the town.

I incurred an expense of 3*l.* for this journey, and have the honour to request your Lordship will authorize me to charge this sum with my quarterly account.

The other items of expenditure for which I ask your Lordship's sanction are

* Not grain.

7*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* paid to Mr. Moffat for his expenses in bringing over the Report on Sevastopol, forwarded with my despatch No. 20, Political; 5*l.* paid to Mr. Wagstaff for his expenses in bringing over the Report on Nicolaieff, forwarded with my despatch No. 18, Political; and 3*l.* paid to Mr. Webster for his expenses in sending over a messenger with the despatch forming Inclosure 1 in this despatch.

With regard to these items of expenditure, your Lordship is aware that despatches entrusted to these post in Russia containing matter displeasing to the authorities are not allowed to reach their destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

P.S.—Colonels Miller and Rathman, who built the fortress at Ochukof, have been telegraphed for by General Todleben, and have left for San Stefano.

G. E. S.

No. 267.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 7*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the speech delivered in the Senate on the 4th instant by Count Corti, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to interpellations which had been addressed to him by the Senators Mamiani and Montegemolo on the foreign policy of Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Speech of Count Corti in Senate.

(Translation.)

IT is not to be wondered at that this high assembly should wish for information respecting the foreign policy of Italy. The King's Government is always glad to learn the views of the Senate, and will derive much advantage from the speeches of the movers of this interpellation.

We would wish to make an exact statement of the policy which we want to follow. But the Senate will doubtless make allowance for the reserve and prudence imposed upon us by the great interests of the State.

It is not necessary to recapitulate the events which have brought us to the present state of affairs.

Europe is now confronted by the results of a war, and delicate negotiations are pending with the object of establishing an accord.

This accord should be effected in a Congress of the Powers signatories of the Treaties of 1856 and 1871. Our action of late has been chiefly directed to facilitate the meeting of this Congress, because we thought that an assembly composed of the personages who direct the Chanceries of the Great Powers would find means of sheltering Europe from the calamity of a new and, perhaps, more serious conflict. These negotiations are still pending, and there is still a hope that they may result successfully.

I have also the satisfaction of announcing that the news of the past two days has increased this hope.

M. Senator Montegemolo alluded to the contradictory statements made in the press respecting the action of the King's Government. These apparent contradictions would not have appeared had not news been circulated for which there was no foundation.

I do not believe that any real mediation has as yet taken place. If a Government, designated by the unanimous voice of Europe as the most fitted to attain this object, had offered its good offices between the dissentient parties, the King's Government could only form the warmest wishes for their success. Nor, whilst such delicate negotiations were pending between England and Russia, could Italy initiate separate negotiations with one of those Powers.

It is not necessary to assure you with what reverence I listened to the words pronounced by M. Mamiani, one of the most illustrious authorities on international law. He asked whether Italy had retained her entire freedom of action. I am able to assure the Senate, in the most categorical manner, that the King's Government is entirely free from any sort of pledge, so that whatever may happen it may regulate its action in conformity with the true interests of the nation.

The illustrious orator recommended that the Treaty of 1856 should form the basis of the negotiations relative to the Eastern Question. The stipulations which for so many years formed the basis of public order in the East still constitute the point of departure of such Treaties. But facts have since supervened which cannot but have their natural effect.

The object of the present negotiations is to harmonize the public law of nations with the new situation. In the negotiations in question the King's Government will neither neglect those principles which form the basis of our national existence, nor the most important question of the freedom of commerce.

I must apologize to M. Caracciolo di Bella for not following him into the regions of the future, but, speaking as I do from the Ministerial bench, I must impose caution on my utterances. M. Caracciolo spoke of the effects of closing the Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. This question has not yet arisen, and the Treaty of San Stefano leaves this question in the state decided on by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871.

The questions of Bessarabia and of the extension of Bulgaria are of too delicate a nature for discussion by me for the present.

I agree entirely with what M. Caracciolo said respecting the efficacy of the principle of nationalities, and I also applaud what he said with regard to justice being rendered to the Ottoman nationality.

Some persons accuse the King's Government of apathy and timidity. There are moments in the history of a nation when calmness and prudence are indispensable in order not to compromise the interests and the dignity of the State. Italy has no need of continued agitation in order to make her influence felt in the counsels of Europe, and to occupy the high position which falls to her as a great Power.

If one were obliged to express apprehension in case of more serious complications, it would be that Italy might be too much solicited rather than forgotten.

The conduct of the King's Government will not cease to be inspired by those principles of honest loyalty which alone can assure the maintenance with all Powers of those amicable relations and reciprocal consideration in which consists its highest aspiration.

In every case the King's Government will not fail to watch over the protection of national interests. And holding to a path of scrupulous impartiality, Italy will find herself in a position to render signal services to the cause of peace, and will prove herself to have become a strong element of order and civilization in Europe.

I shall soon have the honour of presenting to the Senate papers of diplomatic negotiation on the Eastern Question.

No. 268.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 302. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 8*, 1878.

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' despatch No. 362, Very Confidential, of the 18th April, of which a copy reached me the day before yesterday in the Confidential print, (Friday, April 19, Third Section), reporting a conversation with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on some of the points which would have to be determined by a Congress, and stating that M. Waddington was very desirous to ascertain the sentiments of the Italian Government, which he thought it would be more easy for Her Majesty's Government than the French Government to do, with regard to preventing the establishment of Russia as a naval Power in the Mediterranean, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I yesterday had some conversation with Count Corti on this subject, and also on the question of the future arrangements in regard to the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

I may remind your Lordship that the late President of the Council and Minister

for Foreign Affairs, M. Depretis, had very decided opinions, as I reported at the time, relative to the desirability of maintaining the present balance of power in the Mediterranean, and that consequently he had strong objections to any territorial changes which should give Russia a naval station in either this or the adjoining seas. It was for this reason that M. Depretis, as well as his predecessor, M. Melegari, consistently spoke against the idea of granting a port to Montenegro in the Adriatic because they felt that, in the natural course of things, this port would practically fall into the hands of Russia.

In regard to the future arrangement for the navigation of the Straits and Bosphorus by ships of war, M. Depretis invariably said that this was a question on which he wished to be guided entirely by Her Majesty's Government. At first his Excellency rather inclined to the idea that it would be better to preserve the existing regulations, by which, as a general rule, the Straits are closed to the ships of war of all nations, but subsequently, when the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano were disclosed, and it became evident that Turkey, if it continued to exist at all, supposing that Treaty to be carried out, would only do so in a very enfeebled state, and in more or less dependency and vassalage to Russia; and seeing also the preponderance which Russia would acquire in the Black Sea, M. Depretis somewhat modified his previous opinion, and thought that upon the whole it might be more advantageous to the Western Powers if the Straits and Bosphorus were thrown completely open, so that there might be freedom of communication for the ships of all Powers through these passages with the Black Sea. His Excellency invariably said, however, as recorded in my despatches, that he had no very settled convictions on the subject, and that he would be quite ready to subscribe to any arrangements which Her Majesty's Government think best.

I was, therefore, not sorry of an opportunity for endeavouring to ascertain whether Count Corti entertained the same sentiments as his predecessor in regard to the two questions referred to, though I did so, of course, without alluding to Lord Lyons' conversation with M. Waddington; and I am bound to say that I did not find Count Corti's language on either topic as satisfactory as that which M. Depretis was in the habit of employing. It appeared to me that his Excellency was rather anxious to avoid any discussion whatever on the subject. It is true that, in speaking of Russia becoming established as a naval Power in the Mediterranean, Count Corti said that he presumed, if the Congress met, one of its objects would be to make such changes in the Treaty of San Stefano as would prevent Kavalla, or any other port in the Ægean, falling into the hands of Russia, but he expressed himself much more guardedly as regards the principle in question than M. Depretis used to do.

In regard to the question of the Straits, all that his Excellency said was that it was now in abeyance; that the Treaty of San Stefano made no mention of it, and therefore he presumed the present regulations would be maintained. Should it be brought forward in Congress, the Italian Government would have, his Excellency said, to deliberate with the other Powers as to any proposed changes; adding, that the Italian Government would probably not make objections to any arrangement which might be agreed upon between England and Russia; but he did not say, as M. Depretis had frequently said, and as I informed Count Corti he had said, that the Italian Government would be guided by the policy of England in this matter.

Count Corti asked me what were the opinons of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the opening or closing of the Straits.

I said that I did not know; to which he replied, "If the British Government has not made up its mind on this subject, how can I be expected to have done so?"

I said it was quite possible Her Majesty's Government might have made up their minds without my knowing it, but that it was of course natural I should wish to be able to inform Her Majesty's Government of the opinion of the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 269.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 32.) *Stockholm, May* 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the abstract of a letter from the Berlin correspondent of the "Nya Dagligt Allehanda," respecting a negotiation which is alleged to have taken place recently between the Governments of Germany, Sweden, and Denmark, with a view to the adoption of a joint system of neutrality in the event of war being declared between England and Russia.

In commenting on the statement of its correspondent, the "Nya Dagligt Allehanda" takes the opportunity of pointing out how great is the difference between the understanding which is now said to have been come to and the attempt to close the Baltic to the fleets of England, which was at one time supposed to have been contemplated by the Baltic Powers. Although the conditions really under consideration are, according to the paper in question, far from being framed with a view to a system of "neutrality favourable to England," they are, at all events, said to be strictly in accordance with public law, and should therefore be received as proper and judicious.

It has been repeatedly said here that King Oscar's visit to Berlin, on his return from visiting the Queen at Heidelberg, was connected with this question; and it is quite possible that His Majesty may have taken advantage of his visit to concert with the German Government the principles on which the three Baltic States should, in case of war, declare their neutrality. But these principles are already so well known, and are so little susceptible of modification, that I do not imagine that His Majesty's task can have been a difficult one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Translated Summary of a Correspondence published in the Stockholm "Nya Dagligt Allehanda" of May 6, 1878.

WITH regard to the contingency of a possible war between Russia and Great Britain, the whole of the German Press has latterly been engaged in discussing the possibility of the entrance of a British fleet into the Baltic. There would appear to be no doubt as to the equipment of such a fleet, for which purpose ships of war are being gathered together at Portland. It had been reported that Germany would not calmly contemplate the arrival of a British fleet in the Baltic, but this report has been contradicted by semi-official journals. Germany will not seek a war with England, she will on the contrary avoid any appearance of hostility towards her. But neither is Germany inclined to favour England's operations in the Baltic. "The Baltic is not a German inland sea, of which, in virtue of her neutrality, Germany can close the entrance to England, but she will take measures to maintain her neutrality, and lay down conditions for the protection of her trade." It is affirmed on good authority, that Germany has already entered into preliminary negotiations with Sweden and Denmark. It is said "that an agreement has been arrived at with Sweden and Denmark, in virtue of which the three States would lay down common conditions to ensure the respect of their neutrality by the English fleet, the chief object of which would be the protection of their commercial interests, and to prevent their trading vessels from being interfered with and annoyed; it is also considered probable that neither Sweden nor Denmark will grant any harbours, or coast, or station, places as bases of operation for the English fleet. If therefore, the three Baltic States will not oppose the entrance of the fleet, neither will their common carefully-defined attitude tend to facilitate the operations of the British fleet in the Baltic." Germany will principally protect her commercial interests. But, at the same time, from a military and naval point of view, she cannot permit the Oresund and the Great Belt to be controlled by an English force, nor especially allow any portion of the Danish coast to serve for its base of operations, which might interfere with the freedom of communication between the ports of Kiel and Wilhelmshafen. The proposed canal through Sleswig is unfortunately not commenced, and Germany must therefore see to the freedom of the waterways near the Danish islands, and in the Oresund. Germany has taken measures for her security. The lines of Sonderburg-Düppel have been greatly strengthened.

In a few days the German iron-clad fleet will assemble at Wilhelmshafen; the iron-clad corvette "Hansa," will alone remain at Kiel. A squadron of gunboats is also being formed at Wilhelmshafen, to cruize in the North Sea, instead of the Mediterranean. "England cannot avoid taking into consideration the concentration of nearly the whole of the German fleet in a position so strong and so menacing, in the event of British operations in the Baltic, as that of Wilhelmshafen." A war with England for Russia's sake is far from the plans of Germany, but a breach of her rigidly-defined neutrality might easily lead to complications.

The foregoing statement is not founded upon fanciful combinations, but is a true expression of the views which prevail in influential circles.

(Signed) G. GENNER.

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 366.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, May 7, 1878.*

IN the absence of General Schönfeld, the Chief of the Staff, from the War Office (owing to indisposition), I have been unable to test the value of rumours concerning a dislocation of troops meditated by Government on the southern and eastern frontiers of the Empire. His Majesty and Count Andrassy are reported "en congé" in Styria, so that I imagine that indecision is the prevailing feature in Austrian foreign policy, and that there is no immediate intention of occupying Turkish territory.

In my last letter I had the honour of suggesting that the Montenegrins and the Servians would prevent the possibility of Austrian troops crossing into Bosnia on a peace footing, and it seems that the Government share this opinion, for it is reported that Austrian troops will be concentrated to threaten Servia and Montenegro, but that for the present the Turks will be left undisturbed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Magyars still object to any violent occupation of the Turkish Empire, and urge that the consent of the Porte must first be obtained.

According to my private information, the Austrians are taking measures to increase their military force at Cattaro, but I look upon such a movement as an empty and unmeaning threat. I can understand a blockade of Montenegro, but the Austrians cannot take the offensive from Cattaro.

I hear of no movement on the Save, but of great preparations for the reception of troops in Transylvania, Hermanstadt is said to be prepared to receive a garrison of 15,000 men. I have also heard of field fortifications being constructed in the Carpathians, but can only test the truth of such reports by visiting the district in person. If asked to hazard an opinion on slender grounds, I would say that the 60,000,000 fl. credit is to be raised by the whole Empire and not in shares, so as to enable the Minister of War to secure the Transylvanian frontier, that for the moment the Government is much more intent on holding secure the existing frontiers of Austria than on increasing the Empire.

I am of opinion that it is not the Roumanian question, but a fear that Russia may make terms with England, and continue to threaten Austrian interests, which at the present moment preponderates in the Ministerial Council Chamber, and the concentration of Russian troops at the foot of the Carpathians at once attention.

I shall hope on an early occasion to report to your Excellency accomplished facts, from which an inference can be drawn, in place of speculative rumours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 367.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 8, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship's attention will have been attracted to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 31 of the 12th ultimo, commenting upon the 1st Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, by which the territory lying between the Austrian frontier and the River Boyana would be ceded to Montenegro.

Mr. Kirby Green is in favour of giving the Montenegrins an outlet on the sea; but it is curious to note how closely his anticipations of the results to be expected from the proposed extension of the Principality on the side of Albania coincide with those that have been expressed by the Austrian Government.

He represents that two-thirds of the population are Mahommedan, the remaining third being partly Orthodox and partly Roman Catholic; that the town of Scutari will be completely at the mercy of the Montenegrins, whose territory will command it; that some of the most influential and hardy of the Roman Catholic Albanian mountain tribes are made over to Montenegro; and that the barrier which ought to have been raised against Slav encroachment is thus broken down. He concludes by showing that, after a few fruitless struggles on the part of the Roman Catholics, the Montenegrin Slav will have spread over North Albania, and will ultimately crush the last powerful Albanian fraction on the Dibra.

If Mr. Kirby Green's reasoning is correct, the two objects which the Austrian Government have especially at heart—viz., the protection of the Roman Catholics and the prevention of further Slav extension towards the Adriatic—render intelligible the determination of Count Andrassy not to recognize the Montenegrin frontier as laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 272.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 408.)

My Lord, *Paris, May 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, the authentic report of a debate which took place yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies on an interpellation respecting foreign politics, brought forward by M. Dréolle.

M. Waddington, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, pointed out that the present was not an opportune moment, either for the production of diplomatic documents, or for a debate on the Eastern Question, but he promised, before the end of the session, himself to bring on a debate upon that question.

Speaking of the proposed Congress M. Waddington said:—

"Il y a eu des phrases diverses dans les négociations; à l'heure qu'il est, je puis le dire, j'ai l'espoir fondé qu'elles aboutiront à une solution pacifique."

He described the policy of the French Government in the following terms:—

"Mais, en ce qui concerne le rôle spécial du Gouvernement Français, je rappellerai à la Chambre et aux honorables interpellateurs qu'il n'a jamais été et ne pouvait pas être un rôle actif. Il a été celui de spectateur désintéressé, de conseiller amical, ayant de bons rapports, des rapports de confiance et de bonne volonté avec toutes les Puissances de l'Europe, avec tous nos voisins sans exception. Notre politique a été constamment une politique de neutralité, de neutralité dans le présent, de neutralité dans l'avenir. (Très bien! très bien!)

"Toute influence que le Gouvernement a cherché à exercer est une influence morale, l'influence que donne la droiture, la loyauté, et le désintéressement envers tout le monde; elle a été exercée en faveur de la paix toujours. . . . (vives marques d'approbation), et je déclare hautement que le Gouvernement n'a, à l'heure qu'il est, aucune espèce d'engagement, qu'il est libre de tous engagements, sauf ceux qui résultent des Traités, qui constituent le droit Européen et qui, nul ne doit l'oublier ici, ont été revêtus de la signature de la France. (Très bien!).

"Je ne connais au Gouvernement aucun autre engagement que celui-là, et toute son action, je le répète, a été une action en faveur de la paix, du bon vouloir mutuel,

cherchant à aplanir les difficultés et donnant les conseils amicaux que comportent les circonstances.' (Applaudissements)."

M. Waddington stated in the most distinct and emphatic terms that the French Government had no organ in the press with regard to foreign affairs, and was in no degree responsible for statements on the subject made in any newspaper.

The debate ended with an altercation respecting the part taken by M. Cochery and other members in the Parliamentary proceedings immediately preceding the war of 1870.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of May 10, 1878.

No. 273.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 10, 1878.*

AN American gentleman here assures me that Russian agents are not only buying fast steamers in this country, but that they are also doing so in England through German Jews, and that these vessels are being sent to the Pacific *viâ* East Indies as merchant vessels. My informant would tell me no more.

No. 274.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(Very Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 10, 1878.*

M. DUBY, Secretary of the Prince of Montenegro, who has come here on business, has communicated the following to me in the strictest confidence on the part of His Highness:—

"Should war break out between England and Russia, and hostilities be resumed in Turkey, Montenegro will not move; and if Russia, from the pressure she is able to employ, obliges the Principality through financial reasons to become a combatant, His Highness will take care that it shall be so only in name."

I believe this communication will be also given to the Pasha here.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 275.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 11, 1878.*

I LEARN from a private source that General Tchernieff, who was reported to have left Tiflis, has been recalled and is now here. His return is supposed to be connected with some change in the operations contemplated against British India.

No. 276.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 456.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 11, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Trebizond has sent me another long telegram from Laz Chiefs asking for protection and support of Queen in defending their country against the Russians.

I have told him that I can only forward these communications to your Lordship by post, and to discourage them.

No. 278.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 11, 1878.*

SEVERAL Russian naval officers, recently arrived in this country, proclaim openly that they intend to buy fast steamers, man them partly with their own sailors and partly with Americans, and get them out before war is declared, to prey upon British commerce.

I cannot communicate with the Admiral at Bermuda, as there is no cable communication. I hope sincerely that Her Majesty's Government will send out some fast steamers both to the East and West of the United States.

No. 279.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 455 of yesterday, if you are pressed for an opinion on the proposed occupation of Bosnia, say you think it wiser not to resist Austria, but to make conditions for support in urging the Balkan line. But you should not volunteer advice in the matter.

No. 280.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant, the arms purchased at Genoa by Russian officers are said to be consigned to Alexandria, ultimate destination unknown, but may pass down Red Sea in American ship or otherwise.

Make inquiries, and furnish the British Resident at Aden with any useful information on the subject by telegraph.

No. 281.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

WAR Office wish Captain Gill and Lieutenant Ross to return to England. Direct them to do so.

No. 282.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 271.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 11, 1878*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 30 of yesterday, in which you state that the Emperor of Russia is hurt at the want of confidence implied in the proposal that if the British and Russian forces are withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Constantinople the Russian army should start some days before the British fleet would move, I have to observe that the proposal, the substance of which is recorded in my despatch to your Excellency No. 253 of the 1st instant, was adopted by me at the suggestion of Count Münster, to whom it appeared to be the logical sequence of the

proposal that the Russian troops were, in case of a return, to be allowed to start four days before the fleet would leave the Dardanelles.

If the Russian Government should think it right to take exception to this arrangement as a point of honour, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to consider proposals for its modification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 283.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 312. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1878.

THE negotiations which Count Schouvaloff has undertaken to conduct at St. Petersburgh will, I am given to understand, turn wholly upon his Excellency's personal influence; and it is believed that any display of support from England will rather hinder than aid him.

Unless, therefore, you are directly appealed to, you should abstain from any interposition. But should your Excellency be invited to express any opinion, Her Majesty's Government would wish that you should fully support Count Schouvaloff, in conformity with the line of policy indicated in my despatch No. 305 of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 284.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegraphic despatch of the 3rd instant, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter and of its inclosures from the India Office, relative to the destination of the arms reported to have been purchased at Genoa by Russian officers.

I have to instruct you to make inquiries on this matter, and to furnish Her Majesty's resident at Aden with any information on the subject with which you may think it advisable he should be furnished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 285.

The Hon. J. C. Vivian to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received May 11.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Pall Mall, May* 10, 1878.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that the Intelligence Department of this office not only has no connection with Mr. Abel in any way, but that it has not and never would have any connection with any such persons, except with the cognizance of the Foreign Office.

I am to add that Mr. Abel has repeatedly come to the Intelligence Department, and volunteered to obtain information, and his pertinacity in attempting to force an entrance into the office was so great as to lead to the suspicion that he was a Russian employé; but on the detective police being communicated with, the officers employed failed to confirm the suspicion in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. VIVIAN.

No. 286.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 112. Secret.)
My Lord, *Washington, April* 29, 1878.

I HAVE been unable as yet to ascertain that any steamers have been purchased in American ports by or for the Russian Government, with the view of their being used as cruizers against British vessels, in the event of war between Great Britain and Russia, or have been sold to foreign agents for unknown purposes.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of Mr. Archibald's Confidential despatch No. 24 of the 25th instant, and of its inclosure, the latter being a list of steamers at New York, and plying between there and southern ports, some of which would certainly be available as cruizers from their speed, and from their being sufficiently well built to carry two or three guns. I also inclose a copy of the same list, with some additions and corrections made at this Legation, derived principally from the list of merchant vessels of the United States.

With reference to the fast gun-boat stated by Mr. Archibald to be now lying at Rochester, on Lake Ontario, for sale, I have addressed a despatch to the Governor-General of Canada, requesting that in the event of her leaving that port her movements may be watched.

I also inclose copy of Mr. Archibald's Secret despatch No. 25 of the 25th instant, showing that Russian and Russian-Finland seamen at New York appear to be at the orders of the Reverend Nicholas Bjerring, the Russian priest in that city, and I have heard from other quarters that these men will be engaged by the Russian Government. The fact of their remaining at New York seems to indicate that that is the point at which their service would begin.

Mr. Archibald's Secret despatch No. 26 of the 27th instant, of which, and of its inclosure, a copy is transmitted herewith, reports that a torpedo-boat is being built for the Russian Government by Messrs. Delamater and Co., of that city. Rear-Admiral Goro Jones writes to me from New York that this is Ericsson's boat, with regard to which he made a report in his letter No. 138 of the 24th February last, transmitted in my despatch No. 48 of the 25th of that month. He adds that she will not be ready for two months at least, and that she is reported to be building under the auspices, more or less, of the United States' Government.

An extract from the newspapers of to-day and yesterday, purporting to be a telegram from San Francisco, two copies of which are inclosed, gives a rumour that a movement is on foot to fit out privateers at that port to prey upon British commerce, that letters of marque from the Russian Government, in blank, are already there, and that over 200 men have already signed articles. I have received no such information from Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco; I, however, wrote to him yesterday, and requested him to inform me by telegraph whether there was any truth in the report. If any such enlisting of men should be confirmed, whether for Russian men-of-war or for privateers, I should think it my duty to point out to the United States' Government that the enlistment of men in this country for foreign service is in contravention of the laws of the United States.

The 600 Russian seamen who are stated to have left Port Baltic or Revel, have certainly not yet arrived in the United States, for I should have been informed of their arrival. Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco is of opinion that they could not be going to join vessels purchased in that port, but that they might be going to join Russian ships of war, for he had heard on the 20th instant that the Russian so-called "Mosquito" fleet, consisting of nine or ten vessels, including some of those which were there last year, was coming there. This information was obtained from a young Russian, employed as a clerk in a mercantile house, whose father, an officer, had written to him to that effect. The same young man stated that he knew that the Russian Consul-General at San Francisco had received a large credit from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 286.

Consul-General Archibald to Sir E. Thornton.

(Confidential.)

New York, April 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, a list of New York steam vessels, in which are comprised some, but not many, which might be suitable as cruizers in case of war. I cannot furnish with accuracy a statement of the horse-power of their engines, but those which are considered as fast boats are so marked on the list. The tonnages stated are only approximate, but are tolerably correct.

Boats such as those running between New York and Washington, and New York and Portland, are not included in the list. They are neither fast nor adapted for sea voyages of any length. There are here also several old boats, generally wooden boats, some of which were used as gun-boats during the Civil War. But they would, practically, require to be rebuilt, and even then would be unserviceable.

I am informed that there is now lying at Rochester, on Lake Ontario, a very fast side-wheel gun-boat for sale; and that she will probably attract the attention of foreign agents. If sold it would be necessary to bring her down the St. Lawrence River, and through the canals to the sea. It may, therefore, be advisable that the Canadian authorities should have her movements watched.

I hear, on what I think good authority, that there is just now in this city a person from Buffalo, who has come to confer privately with parties from Russia on torpedo matters; and that this person has spoken of transactions about to take place between Russian agents and the Pacific Mail Company. This corroborates the reports which we have already received of negotiations for the sale to the Russian Government of some of the Pacific Mail Company's steamers.

The firm of Schuyler, Hadley, and Graham, of this city, manufacturers and merchants of arms and munitions of war, now are, or lately were, bargaining with Russian agents as to torpedo-boats. It is said that this firm, or some firm in the business, will send an American engineer by the next German steamer to superintend the getting out of the "Peter the Great;" and, if it should be needful, to dredge a channel for her.

Efforts are still being made to sell the Stevens battery, now lying at Hoboken. But the condition of this vessel is such that it is regarded as quite improbable that she would be purchased by the Russian Government for war purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. ARCHIBALD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 286.

LIST of certain American Merchant Steam-ships at the Port of New York, April 25, 1878.

Name of Ship.	Built of—	Probable Speed.	Tonnage (about).	Remarks.
			Tons.	
City of Washington	Iron	Fast	2,000	New.
City of Savannah	Ditto	Ditto	2,000	
City of Para	Ditto	Ditto	3,500	Ditto.
City of Rio de Janeiro	Ditto	Ditto	3,500	
Colinon	Ditto	Ditto	3,000	
Colon	Ditto	Ditto	3,000	
Acapulco	Ditto	Ditto	3,000	
Mississippi	Ditto	..	..	An old boat. Said to have gone to Azores last week, and intended to run from Fayal to Boston.
Saratoga	Ditto	Fast	2,300	
Niagara	Ditto	Ditto	2,300	New.
State of Texas	Ditto	Ditto	2,000	
Knickerbocker	Ditto	Ditto	1,800	
Hudson	Ditto	Ditto	1,800	
New York	Ditto	Ditto	1,800	
Algiers	Ditto	..	2,000	Ditto.
Morgan City	Ditto	..	2,000	Ditto.
Lone Star	Ditto	..	2,000	Ditto.
Clyde	Ditto	..	2,000	Ditto.
Columbus	Wood	..	1,500	Old.
Crescent City	Iron	..	1,500	
Santiago de Cuba	Wood	..	1,500	
City of Vera Cruz	Ditto	..	1,400	
City of Merida	Ditto	..	1,400	
City of San Antonio	Iron	Fast	2,000	
City of Houston	Ditto	Ditto	2,000	
City of Dallas	Wood	..	1,000	Old style. Little account. In Atlantic coast trade from New York.
San Jacinto	Ditto	..	1,000	
General Barnes	Ditto	..	1,000	
Rapidan	Ditto	..	1,000	
Herman Livingston	Ditto	..	1,000	
Carondelet	Ditto	..	1,000	
Tybee	Ditto	..	1,000	
Cortes	Ditto	..	1,000	
Champlain	Iron	..	1,418	Lying up for repairs.

Inclosure 4 in No. 286.

List of, and Information respecting, certain American Merchant Steamers at the Port of New York, in April 1878.

Copy of Return furnished by the Master's Consul-General at New York, to the Master of Statistics, United States' Bureau of Statistics, with Annual Report for November 30, 1877; and also Information gathered from other sources.

No.	Name.	Signal Letters.	Official No.	Rig or Class.	Material.	Tonnage.	Horse-power (nominal).	Destination, &c.
1	Ægir	..	..	..	Iron	Gross, 1,871 Net, 1,273	350	Bremen. (New York, Havana, and Mexican mail).*
2	Allemannia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.
3	Amerika	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.
4	Arizona	J. G. P. S.	76,347	Steamer, screw	Steel	Gross, 3,868 Net, 2,474	3,500	Rio Janeiro. (United States and Brazil). Touches at St. Thomas, Para, Pernambuco, Bahia.*
5	Australia	J. H. S. V.	3,851	Ditto	Iron	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
6	Baltic	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 2,500 Net, 1,700	..	Liverpool. (Inman line).
7	Bavaria	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Hamburgh. (The new mail).
8	Belgia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.
9	Bermuda	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.
10	Borussia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	As oil boat; said to have gone to the Azores last month, and intended to run [illegible] Egypt to Boston.
11	Britannia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Hamburgh. (New York and Cuba mail, June 27. Wyse and Co.).*
12	Bulgaria	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
13	Cambria	J. C. B. H.	76,825	Steamship	Iron	Gross, 3,000 Net, 2,000	3,000	New Orleans. (Cromwell line).
14	Canada	J. N. B. P.	76,826	Ditto	Ditto	Gross, 3,000 Net, 2,000	3,000	Liverpool. (Inman line).
15	Cella	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
16	Cimbria	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
17	Columbia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Hamburgh.*
18	Cuba	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
19	Dania	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
20	Denmark	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
21	Egypt	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
22	Elbe	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
23	Ems	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
24	Erin	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
25	Europa	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
26	Fulda	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
27	Gallia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
28	Germania	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
29	Gellert	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
30	Hammonia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
31	Hansa	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
32	Helvetia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
33	Herder	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
34	Herman	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
35	Hermann	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
36	Holsatia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
37	Humboldt	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
38	Idaho	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
39	Ismenia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
40	Italia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
41	Lessing	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
42	Lorelei	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
43	Lucania	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
44	Lucerne	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
45	Lyderhorn	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
46	Main	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
47	Manhattan	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
48	Marathon	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
49	Marie	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
50	Mecklenburg	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
51	Meta	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
52	Moravia	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
53	Neckar	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
54	Nevada	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
55	Niagara	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
56	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
57	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
58	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
59	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
60	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
61	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
62	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
63	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
64	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
65	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
66	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
67	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
68	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
69	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
70	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
71	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
72	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
73	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
74	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
75	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
76	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
77	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
78	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
79	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
80	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
81	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
82	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
83	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
84	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
85	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
86	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
87	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
88	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
89	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
90	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
91	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
92	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
93	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
94	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
95	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
96	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
97	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
98	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
99	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*
100	Nicaragua	..	..	..	Ditto	Gross, 1,600 Net, 1,088	..	Ditto.*

* New ship.

† Old style; little account.

‡ Old.

Inclosure 4 in No. 286.

Consul-General Archibald to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.)

New York, April 25, 1878.

Sir,

THE detective employed by me has been endeavouring to trace the movements of Russian officers and seamen, if any, at this port. He has as yet obtained no definite information, except that the Rev. Nicholas Bjerring, the Russian priest in this city, and whose church and residence are at No. 951, Second Avenue, is the person to whom all the Russians and Russian Finlanders report. The detective has conversed with some (he does not say how many) Finland sailors who speak the German language, and are, he states, waiting for orders here, but from whom the detective has not yet discovered.

The "Snevia," of the Hamburgh-American line, arrived to-day from Hamburgh. I inclose a list of her passengers. Among the steerage passengers there appear to be only two Russians. These, I am informed, are simply emigrants intending to settle in this country. Of shipments from here of munitions of war I notice only, per schooner "Lizzie Dewey," for Cadiz, 100 cases of cartridges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. ARCHIBALD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 286.

Consul-General Archibald to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.)

New York, April 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I have ascertained that Messrs. C. H. Delamater and Co. are building at their ironworks, at the foot of West Thirteenth Street, in this city, for the Russian Government, a torpedo-boat, which was commenced about a fortnight since, and the construction of which is being pushed forward with all speed day and night. The length of her keel is 120 feet, breadth of beam 16 feet, and it is estimated that her speed will be 20 miles an hour.

With reference to my despatch of the 25th instant, I beg leave to inclose extracts from the "Tribune" and "Sun" newspapers, of this morning, in regard to rumoured negotiations by Russian agents for the purchase of fast steamers to serve as cruizers or privateers, and mentioning the names of certain vessels suitable for such purpose. I am endeavouring to discover what foundation in truth there is for these reports.

Besides the ship-building yard of Cramp and Son, at Philadelphia, and Baird and Houston (torpedo-boats), Port Richmond, there are the following iron ship-yards at other places, viz., East Boston, Lewing's; in New York: Morgan Works, foot of East Ninth Street; Quintard, foot of East Eleventh Street; Delamater and Co., West Thirteenth Street; Wilmington, Delaware, Harlan and Hollingsworth, and Pusey and Jones; Chester, John Roach and Son.

There are also, as I am informed, at Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and St. Louis, particularly at the latter place, shops capable of turning out fine ships, which could go to sea by the Gulf of Mexico.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. ARCHIBALD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 286.

Extract from the "New York Daily Tribune" of April 27, 1878.

PRIVATEERS FOR RUSSIA.—VESSELS IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.—IN speaking recently of the rumours about the intended purchase and fitting out of vessels in this country as Russian privateers, in case of a war between England and Russia, a prominent representative of the shipping trade stated that there was a number of fast steamers in the United States available for the purpose mentioned. By removing their upper deck cabins and increasing their salt capacity, they would make excellent privateers. Among these was the new iron steam-ship "City of Oregon," which lately sailed from this port for Portland, Oregon, and reached her destination in fifty-four days, which was considered a remarkably quick passage.

There were also the new iron steam-ships "City of Savannah" and "City of Macon," of Garrison's Savannah line; the "City of Rio de Janeiro" and "City of Para," of the new Brazil line; the "City of Washington," and the wooden steam-ships "City of Merida," "City of Vera Cruz," and "City of New York," of Alexandre's line, all of which are noted for speed. Next are the iron steam-ships "Pennsylvania," "Ohio," "Indiana," and "Illinois," of the American line from Philadelphia to Liverpool. These vessels could be purchased lawfully during peace, but as soon as war was declared the President, in obedience to the Treaty between the United States and England, would be obliged to issue the Proclamation of Neutrality, and then the furnishing of equipment of any character to either of the belligerents would necessarily be stopped. It was thought that Russian agents could work in the United States by loading vessels with coal and other supplies, and clearing them ostensibly for some port; when they were beyond the jurisdiction of neutrality laws they could transfer their supplies to vessels waiting to receive them.

Inclosure 7 in No. 286.

Extract from "The Sun" of April 27, 1878.

SOUTH STREET RUMOURS.—THERE have been rumours for some time past that officers of the Russian navy were in this city negotiating for steam-ships to be fitted out as privateers in the event of a war between Russia and England. It is known that the Messrs. Alexandre, owners of the Havana line, were recently visited by a gentleman who asked particularly about the prices demanded for their steam-ships. Whether he was a Russian agent or not the firm say they do not know. Among the vessels known among shipping men to have been examined by (presumable) agents of the Russian Government are the "Oregon," of the Portland line, that made the voyage to California in the short time of fifty-four days; the "City of Washington," the "City of Merida," the "City of Vera Cruz," and the "City of New York," of the Havana line; the "City of Savannah" and the "City of Macon," of Commodore Garrison's line, and two new steam-ships that are being built for Commodore Garrison.

Inclosure 8 in No. 286.

Newspaper Extracts.

San Francisco, April 27, 1878.

RUSSIAN WAR VESSELS.—IT is reported this evening, by persons who claim to be in the plot, that, in anticipation of the breaking out of hostilities between England and Russia, a movement is on foot to fit out a privateer in this port to prey on British commerce. Letters of marque from the Russian Government are already here in blank, waiting for the declaration of war to be filled out. Negotiations are under way for the purchase of one of a number of steamers now laid up in Almeda Creek, on the opposite side of the bay.

The Crews.—Commissions of officers are also here, and funds to carry out the project. Over 200 men have signed articles binding themselves to engage in the enterprise, the recruits being mostly drawn from the idle classes, who are ready for anything. Captain Waddell, late of the wrecked Pacific mail steamer "City of San Francisco," formerly in command of the rebel privateer Shenandoah, is mentioned as the probable commander, and Captain Lapelge, late of the Pacific mail steamship service, is named as one of the officers.

Ready when the hour comes.—The persons profess to mean business, and will be prepared to move on the instant war is declared. From other sources it is learned that the Russian corvette "Craysser," now lying in position, is prepared for instant action, and the object of her long delay here is to obtain the earliest possible news of the outbreak of hostilities, and at once go to sea and lie in wait for British vessels bound to this port. It is understood that, with the exception of the corvette "Opal," and the small gun-boat "Rocket," at Victoria, and a frigate ship, which is supposed to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Panama, there is not a single British war vessel in the North Pacific to interfere with the designs of the Russian cruizer, and it is possible that the vessels at Victoria would be retained there for defensive purposes.

San Francisco, April 27, 1878.

HELP FOR THE CZAR.—IT is reported this evening that, in anticipation of the breaking out of hostilities between England and Russia, a movement is on foot to fit out privateers in this port to prey on British commerce. Letters of marque from the Russian Government are already here in blank. Negotiations are under way, it is said, for one of the steamers now laid up in Almeda creek side of the bay. Commissions of officers are also here, and funds to carry out the project. Over 200 men have signed articles. Captain Waddell, late of the wrecked steamer "City of San Francisco," and formerly of the rebel privateer "Shenandoah," is mentioned as the probable commander, and Captain Lapidge, late of the Pacific mail service, as one of the officers. From other sources it is learned that the Russian corvette "Craysser," now lying in position, is prepared for action, and the object of her long delay here is to obtain the earliest news of hostilities and at once go to sea, and lie in wait for British vessels. With the exception of the corvette "Opal" and the small gun-boat "Rocket," at Victoria, and the frigate which is supposed to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Panama, there is not a single British war vessel in the North Pacific.

No. 287.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord,

Washington, April 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a telegram late last night from Her Majesty's Consul-General at New York, stating that the "Evening Telegram" newspaper had reported the arrival at Ellsworth Maine of a German steamer, with 600 passengers, awaiting orders. The "Evening Post" also has a notice to the same effect, announcing that the steamer put in at that port on the 28th instant, to await orders from Russia.

I have this morning telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul at Portland, necessarily *en clair*, instructing him to send someone to Ellsworth to ascertain confidentially who the 600 passengers are, what they are doing, and what they intend to do.

I cannot doubt that they are the Russian seamen of whose departure from the Baltic your Lordship had already informed me. Why they should have gone to Ellsworth, unless under the mistaken idea that their arrival and presence there would not be generally known or noticed, I cannot yet understand.

In the war of 1812 Ellsworth was a port from which many privateers were sent against British commerce. Many sailing vessels are still built there, as throughout the State of Maine, but I cannot ascertain that there are any steamers in that neighbourhood which would be available as cruizers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 288.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord,

Stockholm, May 8, 1878.

I AVAILED myself yesterday of the opportunity afforded by the Berlin correspondence of a Stockholm paper which was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 32 of the 7th instant to ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he could inform me if there was any truth in the report that His Swedish Majesty whilst at Berlin had come to an understanding with the German Government in regard to the policy to be pursued by the three neutral Baltic Powers in the event of a war between England and Russia.

General Björnstjerna replied, without any hesitation, that he would tell me exactly all that had recently passed with a view to the joint action of the Powers in this matter.

On the occasion of the King's late journey to Heidelberg it was thought advisable, said his Excellency, that during his stay at Copenhagen and Berlin, His Majesty should ascertain the views of both Courts on the question of neutrality. Left to itself the Swedish Government would have preferred to reissue the Swedish Declaration of Neutrality of 1854, but the British Government had in the interval rendered this

course somewhat difficult by adopting certain rules which are defined in the Earl of Derby's letter to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of April 1877, limiting the stay of a belligerent cruiser in any British port or waters to twenty-four hours, and also forbidding a belligerent vessel of war to take on board in an English port more than a certain quantity of coal, and that only once in three months. Fortunately, his Excellency added, the Danish Government appeared to have altogether overlooked the existence of this order, and neither the Swedish nor the Danish Government had any wish to make it a condition of their neutrality. Indeed, General Björnstjerna gave me to understand that, unless this rule is hereafter pressed on their acceptance, the Swedish Government will abide by their original Declaration, and I conclude that he only mentioned what had passed on this subject in order that Her Majesty's Government may not feel surprised in case the Swedish Government should eventually be compelled to enforce a rule which originated with Great Britain.

When the King afterwards went to Berlin His Majesty first saw Prince Bismarck, who declared that Germany had determined not to be dragged into taking part in the impending war, and that it was on this account that he had avoided expressing any opinion as to the communications that were being exchanged between England and Russia.

The Prince then left Berlin, and His Majesty sent for Count Bülow, with whom he seems to have come to an agreement as to the general conditions of the Declaration of Neutrality to be issued by the three States in case of war, without, as I understand, Lord Derby's instruction to the Lords of the Admiralty being even mentioned.

General Björnstjerna went on to say that about a week ago M. Okounew, the Russian Envoy at this Court, had called upon him to inquire what course would be taken by this Government in the event of war breaking out between Russia and England; and on being assured by his Excellency that Sweden would continue to observe the principles laid down by Sweden and Denmark during the Crimean war, and on all subsequent occasions (which principles had received the assent of Russia), M. Okounew went away apparently satisfied.

I should add, however, that in speaking of the right accorded by this Declaration to belligerent vessels of war to make use of Swedish harbours, General Björnstjerna reminded me that an exception would be made with respect to a few Swedish and Norwegian fortified places, such as Stockholm, Karlskrona, Karlsten (Marstrand), and Drobak in Norway, whilst Slitö, in the Island of Gotland, which the Government could not at present afford to garrison, would not be comprised in the list of prohibited ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 280.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Stockholm, May 8, 1878.*

HAVING had occasion to see General Björnstjerna yesterday, I asked his Excellency whether he was aware that the Russian Government had chartered one of the largest steamers belonging to this port, called the "Drottning Lovisa," for a voyage to America, for some expedition like that of the "Cimbria," and that they were in treaty for another steamer called the "Nordstjerna."

His Excellency did not deny or confirm the report to which I had called his attention. He said that the Swedish Government could, of course, not interfere with any arrangement that might be made by the Russian Government in time of peace, but that he should rather have expected that they would have endeavoured to obtain the use of one of the Hamburgh or Bremen Transatlantic steam-ships, as these suited to the navigation of the Baltic, which were chiefly in use here, were hardly fit for so long a voyage.

I disclaimed the least intention of complaining that the "Drottning Lovisa" should have been taken up by the Russian Government; and, in fact, my chief object in speaking to General Björnstjerna on the subject at all was to learn whether he was aware of what was going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 290.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Stockholm, May 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of yesterday's date, respecting the "Drottning Lovisa," I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Memorandum furnished to me by Captain Segrave on this subject, who has been informed on good authority that the "Drottning Lovisa" was purchased and not chartered by the Russian Government, as had been represented to me.

Captain Segrave has also learnt that the Russian Government are in treaty for several other vessels, of which the names and other particulars are given in the inclosed paper.

I may add that I have had an opportunity of ascertaining from a person who is well acquainted with the "Drottning Lovisa," and who expresses a confident opinion that she is quite unfit to cross the Atlantic with a large body of men on board. She was at one time the property of the Swedish Government, and was then strengthened to carry guns, but she has since been fitted for goods and passengers, and could not, without great alteration, be used as a cruizer.

If Her Majesty's Government should consider it advisable to forestall the Russians by purchasing any of these vessels, Captain Segrave feels no doubt that all those which are still at Stockholm could be readily secured on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

P.S.—With respect to the opinion expressed by Captain Segrave as to the qualities of the "Drottning Lovisa" as an ocean steamer, I may observe that the contrary opinion, which I still entertain, was derived from a Swedish officer of high standing, who is thoroughly acquainted with her qualities and defects.

E. M. E.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Memorandum.

THE Russian Government have purchased the Swedish steamer "Drottning Lovisa" for 235,000 kronor (about 13,000*l.*) This vessel was built at Motala, is of 190 tons register, and steams 10½ knots, and can work up to 16 knots. She is now at Baltisch port, and is to be surveyed by the Russian authorities to-day.

They are in treaty for the "Julius Cæsar," late "May," built in England in 1872, of 1,150 tons, which has had new boilers, &c., and can steam 9½ knots; her price is 350,000 kronor (about 19,500*l.*). She is now at Cronstadt, and shortly to be surveyed.

They are also in treaty for the Swedish steamer "Gustaf II Adolf," of 190 tons, which can steam 10½ knots.

Also for the "Nordstjerna," 270 tons register, 140 horse-power, can steam 11½ knots; built at Motala, 1871, of iron.

(Signed) WILLIAM SEGRAVE.

Stockholm, May 8, 1878.

P.S.—In addition to the vessels enumerated in my list, I have just heard that overtures are made for purchase of "Presto" and "Allegro," the ships which form the regular London line.

These vessels are about 850 to 900 tons each, and can steam about 8½ or 9 knots under favourable circumstances.

The "Drottning Lovisa" and "Nordstjerna" draw about 13 feet each, and the opinion expressed about their being risky to cross the Atlantic is scouted in commercial circles, everything depending on stowage of a moderate cargo.

W. S.

No. 290 A.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

Galatz, May 11, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's telegram of 10th. Export of grain from the Dobrutscha has been forbidden by the Russians. At Toultcha they levy tax of 20 paras per ton on vessels loading. It is not known here if it is an old or a new duty; Commission expect further information shortly.

On the Pruth are three bridges, one at Sculoni above navigable part, two near mouth of river, a railway bridge and one for the passage of troops. It is doubtful whether or not, in consequence of the rise in the water, the railway bridge is high enough to allow boats to pass. Arrangements are being made for an opening.

The last is now opened thrice a week, which Pruth Commission consider satisfactory.

Rise of freight due to short supply of barges.

No. 290 B.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

Scutari, May 12, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORMATION coming in to-day to the Pasha from all sides throws discredit on the communication made yesterday to him and me by the Prince's Secretary.

Prince Nicholas has summoned all his Chiefs, and even those of the Albanian tribes with whom he is in secret intercourse, to the capital, and orders have been given for the whole population to prepare for immediate hostilities, and ammunition is being distributed.

The Slav peasantry on this side of the frontier has been asked to make insurrectionary movement, and emissaries have once again been despatched to Mirdicia.

Bib Doda, who last week solicited the Sultan's pardon and obtained it, has failed to keep his promise to come into Scutari.

Austrian Consul has suddenly made strong representations to Pasha by order of his Government concerning Turkish cruelties in Mirdicia, alleged to have been perpetrated months ago, and which show that the Consul is no stranger to the proceedings of Doda. Porte has to-day ordered Pasha to telegraph daily all occurring here.

If your Lordship thinks it important to ascertain what value ought to be attached to M. Dubey's assurance and what is the real meaning of the reported preparations in Montenegro, this might be done by my going to Cettigné. My visit could be explained by my desire to avail myself of the spring weather to show my wife Montenegro and present her to the Princess. I should, of course, act with the greatest discretion and merely listen and see.

Telegraph instructions in the affirmative from your Lordship I know would not be displeasing to the authorities here.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 291.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 8. Consular.)

Tiflis, April 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Shah of Persia is expected to arrive here shortly, on his way to St. Petersburgh.

It is said that arrangements have been entered into between the Russian and Persian Governments with a view to an exchange of territory, the Persians ceding a portion of the Atrek Valley east of the Caspian Sea for part of the newly-acquired Russian territory in Turkish Armenia, namely, the country round Bayazid.

The reported Central Asian expedition is still talked of, but travellers lately arrived from Astrakhan report no preparations in progress thereabouts.

Batoum has not been as yet ceded by the Turkish Government, or rather by the

Turkish forces in possession, they having refused to recognize the clause in the Treaty to that effect, or to evacuate the fortifications of Tsikutziri.

The Russian losses during the late winter campaign in Armenia, from cold, exposure, and typhus fever combined, have been enormous; many regiments have lost near two-thirds of their numbers, and all are now mainly composed of raw recruits, most of whom are mere youths under 20 years of age.

General Loris Melikoff, Commander-in-chief of the Caucasian army, came into Tiflis on the evening of the 10th instant, from Kars and Erzeroum, *en route* for St. Petersburgh, where he attends a grand council of war, said to be held for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of sending a force of 20,000 men from the Caucasus, viâ Krasnovodsk and the Atrek Valley, towards Merv, to effect a junction there, and co-operate with an army from Turkestan directed against the north-west frontier of India.

The late departure of the Grand Duke Michael for St. Petersburgh is believed to be connected with the same project.

A great number of Lesghians and Tchetchentz mountaineers, variously stated at 3,000 to 5,000 families (15,000 to 25,000 souls), have been transported from the districts implicated in the late insurrections in the Caucasus towards Orenbourgh and the east of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 292.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 10. Consular.)

Tiflis, April 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Lordship, that munitions of war, provisions, &c., are being forwarded towards the Turkish frontier from hence, likewise from other parts of Georgia, and remounts for the cavalry being collected.

All possible means are used to excite the population against the English, by false news and misrepresentations, in the native journals, likewise by garbled telegrams, but without much effect, as the Georgians and Tartars know the defects of the present Government too well to have any fear of making an exchange for the worse.

As far as trade is concerned matters are already very bad, there is no credit, no confidence, and nothing doing, except in swindling the Government by army contracts. All the foreign tradesmen—French, German, and Italian, complain that the present Custom-house regulations, enforcing payment in gold, have completely brought business to a standstill, no purchasers being to be found for their goods at the prices they are compelled to charge.

The Poti and Tiflis Railway is useless for everything but through transport, in consequence of the deficiency of rolling stock and the extra demands upon it for strategic purposes. It will soon, unless relaid, become useless for any purpose, the rails being in many places worn out and unfit for service. Two English vessels with fresh rails have arrived at Poti and are now discharging cargo.

Many of the engines on this line are in a very bad state, chiefly from the ignorance of the mechanics, and should the Black Sea ports be blockaded before any fresh provision of engines and rails arrives the line will become useless within the year, as they cannot convey material or rolling stock across the Caucasus except at an intolerable expense.

There is said to be only one division of 20,000 men, all told, including cavalry and artillery, in Turkestan (Central Asia) at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 293.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 468. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, April 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM informed privately, but from a reliable source, that at a Council held at the Palace to-day, at which General Ignatieff, M. de Giers, General Milutine, and Baron Jomini were present, the Emperor evinced a much more conciliatory and yielding disposition, and expressed a readiness to make large concessions in the interest of peace. My informant stated that, in regard to the retrocession of Bessarabia, only that portion would be asked for where the population was Russian.

Bayazid and that portion of Armenia through which the commercial road from Trebizond passed would be abandoned by Russia, and even the cession of Batoum was apparently no longer insisted upon.

The chief point to which the Emperor held was the retention of Kars as a question of military honour.

I am further informed that Prince Bismarck has expressed his wish to the Imperial Government not to discuss any details in regard to the mediation he had undertaken on the simultaneous withdrawal of the army and fleet from the vicinity of Constantinople, and that he considers that, in their mutual interest, it will be better for the two Governments to negotiate directly with each other, thus apparently withdrawing from his position as mediator.

I am told that this suggestion is approved here, and it is thought that the Treaty of San Stefano might be confidentially discussed in London with Count Schouvaloff, and it is confidently hoped that by these means a direct understanding may be arranged between the two Governments of a nature to ensure the meeting of an European Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 294.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 475.) *St. Petersburgh, May 1, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM informed that Prince Lobanow Rostowski, now Assistant Minister of the Interior, has been appointed Russian Ambassador to the Porte.

Prince Lobanow was some years ago Russian Minister at Constantinople. He is of an independent and straightforward character, and of a conciliatory disposition.

His appointment, I believe, has given general satisfaction here excepting to General Ignatieff, who had openly spoken of his approaching return to Constantinople, and had made his preparations accordingly. Prince Lobanow will leave immediately for his new post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 295.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 477.) *St. Petersburgh, May 1, 1878.*

My Lord,

A REPORT is current here, and generally accredited, that the Russian Government intend to address a summons to the Porte to give up Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano, and that in case of their declining or delaying to do so, a threat is held out of the renewal of hostilities.

I think it right to report this rumour to your Lordship, although I cannot guarantee the authenticity of it. But although this measure may not be imminent I consider that it may be taken at any moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 296.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 479.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my despatch No. 458 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting the departure of Russian naval officers and men for Italy, I have endeavoured, but without success, to obtain further more detailed information with regard to their destination and ultimate object.

I have seen in the English press the names of four American vessels said to be chartered by the Russian Government, and to be awaiting the arrival of their Russian commanders and crews at some Italian port.

I venture to suggest that these cruizers may be intended, in the event of war, to disturb the transport of our troops from India, or otherwise to interfere with the navigation of the Suez Canal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 297.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 481.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I MET General Ignatieff to-day at the Foreign Office, and in conversing with him and M. de Giers I perceived that there was an evident wish for an amicable arrangement with England in regard to Eastern affairs, and that they were both of opinion that it could be best obtained by direct and confidential negotiation through the medium of Count Schouvaloff. They were, at the same time, anxious not to disturb the mediatory efforts of Prince Bismarck, but were of opinion that direct and confidential negotiations with England in regard to the Treaty of San Stefano and the meeting of the Congress need not necessarily interfere with the continued mediation of Prince Bismarck for the withdrawal of the army and fleet.

They both requested me to inform your Lordship of these opinions, stating that instructions in a similar sense would be sent to Count Schouvaloff.

From the tone of these observations, it was evident to me that there is a great anxiety here to avoid war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 298.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 493.) *St. Petersburgh, May 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith, translations of extracts from the Finnish press which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Helsingfors, on the subject of the military preparations in that country, and of the "Cimbria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Extracts from the Finnish Press.

From the Helsingfors "Dagblad" of May 3, 1878.

(Translation.)

MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.—In the event of war, we are informed that three divisions of infantry will be stationed in Finland for the defence of the country. As each division on war footing is composed of 26,000 men, the entire force in Finland will be 75,000. The commander of these troops will shortly be gazetted.

A telegram just received apparently rectifies the error in yesterday's despatch, in so far as the "Cimbria" is said to have sailed from a Finnish port, and that the greater part of the passengers were Fins. In all probability the Russian seamen referred to in the telegram were natives of Esthonia and Livonia, and may possibly have been from the Russian side of Lake Ladoga, from whence the fleet draws a great many of its seamen.

From the Helsingfors "Hufvudstadsblad" of May 3, 1878.

A more definite telegram relative to the "Cimbria" states that that vessel left Baltic port on the 20th April, and that 600 passengers were taken on board at a Finnish port. The statement that the greater part of the passengers were Fins might possibly have its origin in the fact that the chief of the expedition, Captain-Lieutenant Gripenberg is a Fin in Russian service.

From the Helsingfors "Morgonblad" of May 3, 1878.

The Finnish port from which the "Cimbria" is said to have sailed means undoubtedly a port in the Gulf of Finland.

No. 299.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 505.) *St. Petersburgh, May 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which, on the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 200 of the 24th ultimo, I addressed to M. de Giers, requesting that an inquiry may be instituted into the forcible occupation of the British Consulate at Rustchuk by the Russian authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

St. Petersburgh, May 7, 1878.

M. le Conseiller Privé,

I REGRET to have to call the attention of the Imperial Government to a complaint which has been made by Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk that the British Consulate in that city was forcibly occupied on the 2nd ultimo by the Russian Civil Governor Zolatoroff, whilst the British flag was flying thereon, that property belonging to Her Majesty's Government, and which consists of a portion of the Consular Archives, as well as Mr. Consul Reade's private effects, were removed thence to the house of a Russian major who is Chief of Police, and that the Russian General had ordered the Russian flag to be hoisted over the British Consulate on establishing his Chancellery there.

I have been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to bring this matter to the notice of the Imperial Government, and to request that an inquiry may be instituted by them into the circumstances narrated by Mr. Consul Reade in the despatch, copy of which is herewith inclosed for the information of your Excellency.

I entertain no doubt that, on the confirmation of the facts complained of by Mr. Consul Reade, your Excellency will be pleased to cause the restoration of the British Archives, which have been removed to the house of the Chief of Police, and proper indemnification to Mr. Reade for the damage done to his property.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. LOFTUS.

No. 300.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 507.) *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of extracts from the Helsingfors "Dagblad" of the 28th April and the 6th May, which I have received from Mr. Consul Campbell.

The first gives the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Helsingfors Chamber of Commerce, which is opposed to the project of equipping privateers.

The second states that the battalion in Sveaborg has been increased to a full division.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Extract from the Helsingfors "Dagblad" of April 28, 1878.

A MEETING of the members of the Helsingfors Chamber of Commerce, convened by public advertisement, was held yesterday, and unanimously attended.

The last subject laid before the meeting for discussion was relative to the effect which the privateering system proposed in Russia would have on the trade of Finland. The following memorandum was submitted :—

"The proposition which originated in Moscow to raise sufficient funds by private subscription to purchase and equip privateers in the event of war between Russia and Great Britain, with the doubtless intention of plundering and destroying English merchant vessels, appears to us to be a subject deserving the attention of the Helsingfors Corporation of Merchants, in so far as the carrying out of such a scheme would be injurious to Finland."

Resolved—

The Chamber of Commerce in Helsingfors, with due respect to the interests which it represents, and with its eyes open to the losses and sufferings which a war that might provoke reprisals would entail, particularly in Finland, finds itself compelled to criticise the project of the Moscow Company to equip privateers as in a high degree deplorable and hazardous interference.

Helsingfors "Dagblad," May 6, 1878.

Sveaborg's fortress battalion appears now to be increased to a full division, since Major-General Tankoffsky has been appointed Chief of Sveaborg's Fortress Division.

No. 301.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 509.) *St. Petersburgh, May 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an interesting article in French translation from the "Gazette de la Bourse," the organ of the mercantile and monied classes, and the invariable advocate of peace during the Eastern complication.

This article disclaims against the solution of the Eastern Question by force of arms, and views the possibility of a war with England as pernicious and ruinous to Russia.

It quotes the words of the Emperor Nicholas, stating that the downfall of Russia would date from the day at which any Emperor of Russia should take Constantinople, or should occupy and fortify it, adding that, if ever Constantinople should become the capital of the Czar, Russia would cease to be Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 301.

Extract from the "Gazette de la Bourse."

UN AMICUS PACIFIQUE.—De tous les organes de la presse Russe, la "Gazette de la Bourse" s'est toujours distingué pour son ton réservé et son opposition à la guerre. Pris à partie par les partisans de la guerre, son Directeur, M. Polelika, dans une lettre qu'il imprime dans son journal et qu'il a le courage et la droiture de signer, donne les raisons motivées de l'attitude qu'il a suivie jusqu'ici et qu'il continue. Nous détachons de cette lettre tout ce qui est personnel dans la polémique engagée entre l'honorable publiciste et ses contradicteurs pour ne conserver que son argumentation:—

. . . "La situation politique dans laquelle nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui me dispense peut-être de démontrer que l'opinion que la 'Gazette de la Bourse' a professée pendant ces deux dernières années est complétement justifiée. Mais si même nous n'étions pas à la veille d'une nouvelle guerre, incomparablement plus dangereuse et risquée que celle que nous venons d'achever, je serais également persuadé que la question Orientale ne saurait être résolue par la force des armes, et que la dernière guerre, qui nous a coûté tant de sang et de sacrifices, ne pouvait amener à des résultats utiles par rapport à la solution de cette question. Bien plus inutile, pernicieuse, et ruineuse serait, à mon avis, une guerre entre la Russie et l'Angleterre, si pour le malheur de l'humanité elle doit éclater. Ni la Russie ni l'Angleterre ne possèdent de propres intérêts dans la péninsule des Balkans; l'une et l'autre Puissances n'ont également aucun avantage à y exercer leur prépondérance et encore moins à s'y établir. La Russie prendra-t-elle Constantinople ou la Grande Bretagne réussira-t-elle à mûrer dans les Dardanelles une station maritime. Ces deux usurpations seront continuellement des plaies d'où le sang sortira à flots et qui ne pourront se cicatriser que lorsque ces États renonceront à leurs acquisitions."

Ici l'auteur cite les paroles mémorables de l'Empereur Nicolas qui a consacré toute sa vie à l'agrandissement de la Russie et de son influence en Europe: "s'il arrivait que quelque Empereur de Russie s'emparât de vive force de Constantinople ou fût contraint à l'occuper et à la fortifier de façon à le rendre inexpugnable, la décadence de la Russie commencerait à dater de cette époque. Si ce n'est pas moi, du moins mon fils ou mon petit-fils y transporteront sa résidence; tôt ou tard cela doit arriver par la simple raison que le Bosphore se trouve sous un ciel plus doux et sertes plus attrayant que St. Pétersbourg et Moscou. Mais dès que Constantinople deviendra la capitale des Tsars, la Russie cessera d'être la Russie, chose que nul Russe ne peut désirer."

"Ces mots indiquent une profonde vérité politique. L'annexion de Constantinople ou en général des territoires des Slaves Occidentaux à la Russie serait le plus sûr moyen d'arracher à la grande Russie, à la Russie de Pierre-le-Grand, ses fertiles provinces de l'ouest et par conséquent d'affaiblir et de briser cette épine dorsale de la Russie qui est formée par le Volga et ses affluents depuis la Baltique jusqu'à la Mer Caspienne. De même que la possession de Constantinople pour la Russie, celle des Dardanelles sera pour l'Angleterre la cause de sa faiblesse. Les Détroits, les stations maritimes fortifiées, comme Gibraltar, Malte, et le Cap de Bonne-Espérance, n'ont d'importance que dans la seule tradition. Lorsque la vapeur n'était pas encore appliquée à la navigation, il était très-avantageux à une Puissance maritime de posséder certains points des grandes routes maritimes où ses vaisseaux protégeaient sa marine marchande, lui assuraient un asile à l'abri de toute attaque et la plaçaient au-dessus de toute compétition. De nos jours, ces stations fortifiées ne font qu'accroître les dépenses improductives et ne seraient souffertes par les autres Puissances que dans le cas seulement où toutes, sans exception, y trouvent un avantage et où elles ne nuisent à aucune. Élever des difficultés au passage des navires marchands à travers les Détroits ou les frapper d'un droit quelconque, c'est ce que l'on ne permettra jamais à un État. Il y a deux ans la Compagnie du Canal de Suez ayant voulu, pour augmenter ses revenus, élever le droit que les navires payaient en passant. Toute l'Europe réclama et la Compagnie dut y renoncer. Il en sera de même dans les Dardanelles: jamais on ne souffrira qu'un État y exerce une autorité absolue. D'autre part, l'occupation des Dardanelles en vue de tenir la Russie sous une menace perpétuelle retomberait de tout son poids sur la Grande Bretagne, tandis que la Russie profiterait d'un moment opportun pour en déloger les Anglais. Le développement et la prospérité économiques de la Russie Méridionale et de notre commerce de la Mer Noire ne dépendent pas de la présence des canons Russes dans le Bosphore, mais du degré de liberté et de la protection accordées à la vie économique de la nation et de l'énergie et de la productivité de notre commerce et de notre industrie. Oui, nous souhaitons la lutte avec l'Angleterre, mais ce n'est pas pour les Détroits et la péninsule des Balkans et les armes à la main. Nous devrions abaisser l'influence de l'Angleterre au Orient—but que certains voudraient

atteindre à coups de canon—et nous pourrions le faire grâce à notre position géographique et à nos immenses richesses naturelles, bien supérieures à celles de l'Angleterre. Mais y parvenir par la guerre, c'est impossible. Pour cela il faudrait développer en Russie la même infatigable activité et introduire la même liberté de large initiative qui existent en Angleterre. Malheureusement nous n'avons encore rien fait sous ce rapport; bien au contraire, dans ces derniers temps, nous nous sommes efforcés de courber la tête sous le joug des Anglais et nous l'avons supporté avec une résignation et une mansuétude des plus imperturbables . . . .

"En conclusion, je vous prie de ne pas douter que l'on peut être un ardent patriote sans cependant souhaiter à son pays une guerre impossible, qui en tous cas sera pour lui un des plus lourds fardeaux."

No. 302.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 310.) *St. Petersburgh, May 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an Imperial Ukase, instituting a military medal in commemoration of the late war.

It is to be worn with a ribbon composed of those of St. Andrew and St. George, and to be of three categories.

1. Of light bronze, for all military persons who have taken part in the war;

2. Of dark bronze, for those who have taken part in the campaign, but have not participated in the military operations; and

3. Of silver, for the defenders of Schipka and Bayazid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 302.

Imperial Ukase conferring Medal of Three Classes for War.

EN témoignage de notre gratitude particulière pour les valeureux exploits de nos armées pendant la guerre de Turquie de 1877-78, nous avons jugé opportun d'instituer une médaille à porter sur la poitrine avec un ruban composé de ceux de St. André et de St. Georges. Nous confirmons cette médaille: en bronze clair, à tous les militaires qui ont pris une part directe aux opérations de guerre; en bronze foncé, à ceux qui ont fait la campagne sans participer aux opérations militaires; et la même médaille en argent à ceux qui faisaient partie des troupes employées de la défense de la passe de Chipka et de celles libérées à Bayazid. Ayant sanctionné le réglement de distribution de cette médaille, nous vous confions le soin de le promulguer et de faire distribuer les médailles dès qu'elles auront été frappées.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

St. Pétersbourg, le 17 Avril, 1878.

No. 303.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 311.) *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the translation by Mr. Micnell of an article from the "Golos" on the wretched sanitary condition of the Russian army in Asia, and referring to a report recently forwarded to the Russian "Medical Journal" of the mortality among the medical officers at San Stefano.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Substance of Article in the "Golos" of $\frac{\text{April 25}}{\text{May 7}}$, 1878.

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{\text{25th April}}{\text{7th May}}$, 1878, deplores, in a leading article, the wretched sanitary condition of the Russian army in Asia Minor, as described by their special correspondent from Erzeroum. This state of things, the paper declares, cannot be passed over in silence. It also expresses fear that the present agitation in favour of raising subscriptions for Russian cruizers will divert public benevolence into a wrong channel, and deprive the Russian Red Cross Society of the funds in which it stands so much in need. The following are the remarks of the "Golos" on this subject:—

"We run the risk that the contributions towards the Sick and Wounded Soldiers' Fund will soon be suspended; and that even in the churches exhortations will be delivered conducive, not to the stimulation of Christian sympathy and fellow-love to the soldiers who have fought for their country, but towards the encouragement of a scheme for the fitting out of cruizers to prey on the international trade of Great Britain.

. . "And this, too, is taking place at the very time when numbers of sick and wounded remain either totally destitute of attendance and medical assistance, or receive such in a most insufficient manner; when at several places the whole medical staff has fallen victims to either death or disease! What can be more dreadful than that picture of death and helplessness so forcibly depicted by our correspondent at Erzeroum? Of the force of the 39th Division of Infantry, more than half are lying ill, namely, 8,351 men. The greater part of the patients are distributed in native huts, at a distance of many versts from each other, without doctors and without dressers. Of the officers only fourteen remain, so that battalions are being commanded by officers of inferior grades. The temporary hospitals are in need of everything, from linen to medical and sanitary officers. . . . . In a more or less similar condition are the other troops which could not be withdrawn from Asia Minor.

" . . . . In any case, it is impossible to leave our army in such a deplorable condition. The Society of the Red Cross must now, more than ever, exhibit its activity, and for this purpose means are necessary. Appeals to the Society are being sent from beyond Sagaulyg and from across the Danube. Public benevolence should not withhold its hand; we are bound to continue our contributions for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers; we are obliged to afford means to the Red Cross to enable it to fulfil its sacred mission."

According to a report forwarded recently to the Russian "Medical Journal" from San Stefano the mortality among the medical officers and dressers amounts respectively to 50 and 54; medical officers on leave, 31; medical officers on sick-list, 114; and dressers invalided, 360.

No. 304.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 512.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Novoe Vremia," by M. Skalkowski, who, after referring to the difficulties for Russia to contract a foreign loan, suggests that recourse should be had to the United States of America.

This imaginative idea is supported by the supposition that the American capitalists would be disposed to furnish Russia with the means for paying the large orders for powder, arms, purchase of vessels, &c., which, in the event of war, Russia might obtain from America.

It is reported that attempts have been made by the Imperial Government, both at Berlin and Paris, and also at Amsterdam, to contract a fresh loan, but that they have signally failed.

The article I now inclose gives evidence of the financial straits to which the country is exposed and the fanciful expedients to which Russian financiers are capable of resorting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Extract from the "Novoe Vremia."

US EMPRUNT RUSSE EN AMÉRIQUE.—M. Skalkovski publie dans le "Nouveau Temps" un long article où, après avoir démontré les difficultés que rencontrerait la Russie à réaliser un emprunt en Europe, il conseille à cet effet de recourir en cas de besoin aux Etats-Unis:—

. . . "Le succès d'un emprunt Russe à la Bourse de New York produirait incontestablement une impression extraordinaire sur l'esprit des spéculateurs Européens. Cet emprunt, en dehors des avantages politiques, entraînerait des conséquences économiques d'une grande portée. On sait que la Russie a un continuel besoin des produits Américains, tels que le coton, le pétrole, &c.; tandis qu'elle-même exporte très-peu de marchandises aux Etats-Unis, de sorte que la liquidation des opérations de commerce entre ces deux pays se fait au moyen de traites sur Londres, lesquelles nécessairement feront défaut en cas de guerre. L'affluence de fonds considérables chez les banquiers Américains à la disposition du Gouvernement Russe faciliterait les opérations de remises et permettrait de vendre à Saint-Pétersbourg des traites tirées directement sur New York, la Nouvelle Orléans, et d'autres ports des Etats-Unis. En outre, il n'y a aucune raison de croire que malgré la neutralité du Gouvernement, les sujets Américains renonceront à l'avantage de livrer aux belligérants toutes sortes d'articles. Les commandes de poudre, d'armes, les achats de navires, l'armement des croiseurs, la nécessité de les approvisionner obligeront la Russie d'opérer en Amérique des paiements dont la rentrée pourrait se faire aisément sur les fonds remis au moyen d'un emprunt ouvert par la Russie en Amérique. Maintenant déjà nous avons des remises à faire en Amérique. Ces jours-ci notre Gouvernement faisait acheter à Londres 100,000 livres sterling de traites sur New York. Et ce ne sera pas le seul exemple. Donc, si au moyen d'un emprunt en Amérique nous arrivions à couvrir les dépenses que nous serons obligés d'y faire, on réaliserait de part et d'autre des avantages réels. Un emprunt Russe de 100,000,000 dollars serait facilement placé en Amérique, mais pour cela il faudrait qu'il fût conclu selon les usages et les mœurs des Américains, c'est-à-dire au pair avec intérêt assez élevé de 6 à 7 pour cent, amortissable en vingt ans ou au plus trente ans. On devrait donner à l'émission la plus large publicité et désigner par exemple cet emprunt sous le titre d'emprunt 'Russo-Américain d'Orient.' C'est là une combinaison financière parfaitement abordable et la seule à prendre à laquelle nous puissions songer dans les circonstances actuelles."

No. 305.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 513.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, four extracts from the semi-official organs of this date.

1. A leading article from the "Agence Russe," which is evidently officially inspired, and which is written in a conciliatory tone and spirit.

2. A leading article from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," commenting on the speech of Mr. Cross at Bradford, and ending with an expression of hopeful expectation that a Congress may be arranged, and that it may lead to a successful issue.

3. Translations given by the "Agence Russe" of an article in the "Novoe Vremia," declaiming against the concessions which the Imperial Government is reported to contemplate making, as well as translations of an article from the "Golos," commenting somewhat unfavourably on the speech of Mr. Cross.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 305.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Mardi soir, le $\frac{\text{2 Avril}}{\text{14 Mai}}$, 1878.

DEPUIS notre dernier numéro, la détente dont nous parlions s'est produite. Le principe d'un échange de vues entre les Cabinets de St. Pétersbourg et de Londres

ayant été admis et suivi d'un commencement d'exécution, tandis que, d'autre part, des pourparlers continuent à se poursuivre entre St. Pétersbourg et Vienne pour les questions intéressant plus particulièrement l'Autriche, il en résulte une accalmie forcée pendant laquelle les donneurs de nouvelles—toujours mieux renseignés, cela va sans dire, que les Cabinets eux-mêmes—ont beau jeu. Nous avons souvent, dans de pareils moments, conseillé et nous conseillons cette fois encore à nos lecteurs de n'accepter qu'avec la plus grande réserve les bruits qui ne vont pas manquer de circuler ces jours-ci et qui circulent déjà dans les journaux sur les pourparlers engagés. Il va de soi que du moment que deux parties négocient c'est qu'elles cherchent à s'entendre sur une question donnée au moyen de concessions réciproques, et il va de soi également que le caractère de réciprocité est le propre et, pour ainsi dire, la condition expresse de toute négociation. Il n'arrive que trop souvent en réalité qu'en pareilles circonstances chacune des deux parties cherche à attribuer à l'autre tous les frais de l'entente, si entente il y a. C'est là une des faiblesses de notre nature humaine dont ne sont pas plus exemptes les transactions politiques que les transactions privées. C'est à ce point de vue, pensons-nous, qu'il est bon de se placer pour apprécier la correspondance Pétersbourgeoise du "Times" dont s'occupent les journaux Russes. Nous doutons que cette correspondance soit partie de St. Pétersbourg telle qu'elle a paru dans l'organe de la cité; mais il convenait à la thèse que celui-ci soutient que le public Anglais fût convaincu de l'importance des concessions faites par la Russie. De là cette forme précise et solennelle que ne comporte nullement la réalité des choses.

Que le Gouvernement Impérial soit disposé à faire des concessions aux intérêts sérieux de l'Autriche-Hongrie et de l'Angleterre, c'est ce qu'il a toujours dit et affirmé et ce qu'indiquait d'ailleurs le mot "préliminaire" joint à l'intitulé du Traité de San Stefano, qui, à lui seul, prouvait que dans la pensée même qui avait présidé à sa réduction, ce Traité n'était considéré ni comme définitif, ni comme dernier mot. Il n'est personne qui ait pu sous ce rapport se méprendre un instant sur les intentions du Gouvernement Impérial qui, avant comme après la guerre, a toujours répété que le seul point sur lequel il ne céderait pas c'est celui pour lequel la guerre a été réellement entreprise, c'est-à-dire la délivrance des Chrétiens du joug et de l'oppression de l'administration Turque. Ce qui a fait la difficulté de la situation jusqu'ici, ce ne sont certes pas les intentions pacifiques de la Russie sur lesquelles, encore une fois, personne n'a pu se faire la moindre illusion, mais bien au contraire les intentions des autres Cabinets, et en particulier de celui de Londres. Si celui-ci entre aujourd'hui dans une voie plus conciliante, le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg l'y suivra d'autant plus volontiers qu'il l'y sollicite depuis longtemps et qu'en ce qui le concerne personnellement il n'a pas, pour s'y rencontrer avec lui, de bien grand revirement à faire et, conséquemment, pas de déclarations formelles à désavouer. Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a jamais nié, ni dissimulé le prix tout particulier qu'il attachait à la paix. C'est même parce qu'il la voulait durable et sérieuse qu'il tenait et qu'il tient encore à ce que ses derniers sacrifices atteignent leur but véritable, qui est la pacification de l'Orient. Si ce but peut être tout aussi bien ou mieux atteint encore par telles ou telles modifications apportées au Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano et la paix actuelle maintenue par dessus le marché, il va de soi qu'il ne s'y refusera pas, du moment qu'il en sera tout de premier convaincu. Mais affirmer que cette conviction est faite pour lui et que ces modifications sont dès à présent arrêtées c'est, pensons-nous, aller un peu trop vite en besogne et devancer les faits. Autre chose est dire que la situation incertaine et menaçante des derniers jours ne peut continuer, qu'elle doit prendre fin d'une manière ou d'une autre, et que cette conviction générale a forcément amené un état de choses qui peut, si la conciliation est également sincère de tous côtés, aboutir à une solution pacifique de la crise, comme il peut aboutir aussi à un résultat tout opposé, autre chose est donner d'ores et déjà comme arrêtées des stipulations qui ne reposent que sur des conjectures purement personnelles.

La première définition caractérise exactement la situation telle qu'elle est au moment où nous écrivons; la seconde a l'inconvénient de préjuger des questions et de dévancer des faits, dont le Gouvernement n'aura probablement même pas à s'occuper sérieusement avant quelques jours d'ici.

Nous croyons savoir que le Comte Pierre Chouvalov, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Londres, arrivera à St. Pétersbourg Dimanche.

Inclosure 2 in No. 305.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{April 28}}{\text{May 10}}$ 1878.

LA Chambre des Communes d'Angleterre a repris hier ses travaux; et aussitôt il s'est produit des interpellations sur les affaires d'Orient en général et spécialement sur l'appel des troupes de l'Inde. Cette dernière mesure a été critiquée par des orateurs de l'Opposition au point de vue de sa constitutionalité, attendu qu'elle impliquerait pour le Gouvernement le droit de faire venir, le cas échéant, des régiments Hindous ou Mahométans sur le sol même du Royaume. Le Ministre qui a répondu s'est borné à dire que la Chambre serait en mesure de refuser les ressources budgétaires nécessaires à ce transport, lorsque le Ministère lui présentera sa demande de crédit et que, pour ce qui est de la crainte de voir les troupes Hindoues appelées en Angleterre, la loi s'y oppose.

Quant à la situation diplomatique, M. Northcote s'en est référé à ses déclarations d'avant les vacances; il a répété que les négociations se poursuivent activement avec la Russie, qu'il ne s'est produit aucun changement en pire, et que s'il est permis d'espérer un arrangement les mesures de précaution devaient cependant être continuées.

Tel est le résumé de ce que nous savons par le télégraphe des explications échangées hier. Si nous les complétons par le discours de Mr. Cross prononcé le 2 Mai devant le meeting ouvrier de Bradford—on trouvera plus loin le texte de ce second discours du Ministre de l'Intérieur—nous voyons d'abord que celui-ci a en général répété ses arguments de la veille, et qu'ensuite sa harangue était une polémique dirigée contre Mr. Bright et Mr. Chamberlain, dont nous citons aujourd'hui les éloquents discours. Mr. Cross s'est donné principalement pour mission de défendre contre ses contradicteurs "le droit Européen." Nous avons vu hier comment cet orateur entendait le susdit droit et quelle interprétation étroite il lui donnait. Tout en s'y maintenant en général, Mr. Cross s'est cependant—dans son second discours—placé à un point de vue plus élevé. Il a cru devoir faire entrevoir ce que pourraient devenir la Belgique, la Hollande, la Suisse, s'il n'y avait plus de droit Européen et de Traités à respecter.

Nous ne voyons aucune difficulté à suivre l'orateur sur ce terrain, et dès lors nous nous demandons pourquoi cette sollicitude se manifeste aujourd'hui seulement et au profit d'un Traité dont la caducité non-seulement, mais dont l'absolue inexécutabilité quant à l'avenir est universellement admise; et cela non pas par la faute de la Russie, mais par la faute de ce "détestable Gouvernement Turc" dont Mr. Cross a parlé? Cette sollicitude n'eût-elle pas été mieux à sa place il y a deux ans quand on conviait l'Angleterre à se joindre à l'Europe pour poser sur la Turquie en vue d'observer les engagements résultant du Traité de 1856? Mr. Cross a dit le 2 Mai qu'il n'y a pas d'Europe sans l'Angleterre; on s'en est bien aperçu lorsque le Cabinet de Londres a empêché toute mesure de coërcition qui aurait pu éviter la guerre. Mais on faut-il conclure que tout Traité, si inexécutable soit-il, doive être observé par toutes les parties contractantes, aussi longtemps que l'une d'entre elles refuse de le modifier et lors même que cette Puissance ou toute autre en rendrait en même temps l'observation impossible?

C'est la théorie du St. Siége, qui, tout en se proclamant affranchi des obligations contractées par les Concordats et en envoyant aux épiscopats des instructions contraires à ces Concordats, prétend que les Gouvernements avec lesquels il les a conclus y demeurent liés pour les parties avantageuses aux vues du Pontificat. Est-ce que les Puissances les plus Catholiques se sont cru en devoir de se conformer à cette prétention et n'ont-elles pas abuli les Concordats *motu proprio* malgré les protestations de Rome?

Interprété comme le veut Mr. Cross, le droit international deviendrait un leurre ou bien une pétrification. Or, le droit international devant tenir compte de la vie des peuples, de leurs transformations, ne saurait être condamné à pareille momification. Le Traité de 1856 a imposé à ses signataires des devoirs, et, pour ce qui est de la Russie, elle s'en est constamment souvenue; témoins en sont ses démarches réitérées pour obtenir que l'Europe appelle devant ses barres celui des contractants qui s'en est systématiquement écarté, et lui enjoigne de s'y conformer.

Ce n'est donc pas la Russie qui s'en est la première affranchie; elle a passé outre après avoir constaté le mauvais vouloir de la Turquie et l'impuissance de l'Europe. C'était la thèse du célèbre discours de Ayvoon, et nul ne peut dire que l'Europe et la Turquie n'aient été prévenues à temps. Aujourd'hui, qu'en dire même de Mr. Cross,

"de graves altérations doivent être introduites dans les Traités de 1856 et 1871," la Russie n'a cessé de convier l'Europe à y procéder. Ce n'est donc pas à elle que peut s'adresser le cours de droit international auquel l'orateur Ministériel a cru devoir se livrer, pour justifier les armements de l'Angleterre et les encouragements qu'y puise la Sublime Porte à retarder l'exécution des stipulations, non-seulement du Traité de San Stefano, mais encore de celles prévues dans l'armistice et qui ont été les conditions *sine qua non* de la suspension des hostilités.

A propos de la thèse formulée dans les discours de Mr. Cross, un de nos confrères de la presse Russe s'est demandé si le Congrès, en se réunissant, ne devrait pas englober dans une espèce de code général toutes les modifications que les Traités ont subies depuis les Congrès de Vienne et de Laybach, et offrir ainsi une assiette solide et invariable au droit international et aux possessions territoriales. La Russie, quant à elle, ne pourrait trouver aucun inconvénient à une pareille sanction des faits accomplis. Mais le mieux est parfois l'ennemi du bien ; et, pour des causes qu'il est inutile d'énumérer, il est à peu près impossible d'imaginer qu'un accord puisse se faire sur cette base. Bornons-nous donc à souhaiter que le Congrès *ad hoc*, appelé à régler la question d'Orient, parvienne à ses fins, et qu'il lui soit donné d'assurer à l'Europe des années de paix et de prospérité, en produisant l'apaisement là où les passions sont actuellement en jeu, en tenant compte des intérêts légitimes et des vœux fondés des populations et des Etats directement mis en cause, en s'inspirant de vues larges et humanitaires qui permettent d'envisager les questions au point de vue de l'avenir et non pas seulement sous le rapport des jalousies et des méfiances. Si le Congrès réussit à faire une pareille œuvre, qu'il l'entoure ensuite des garanties les plus efficaces ; et la Russie sera heureuse d'y souscrire. Mais cette œuvre ne sera durable, et ne répondra au but que nous venons d'indiquer, que si elle s'écarte du principe même qui était la base du Traité de 1856, celui de livrer à la race Mahométane d'Europe et d'Asie les millions de Chrétiens placés sous la domination Turque, et de les abandonner complètement à leur sauvage exploitation. Si tel ne devait point être le programme de l'Europe, il ne pourra être fait que du replâtrage en Orient ; et ce replâtrage sera d'autant moins durable que l'édifice auquel il serait appliqué est vermoulu.

Inclosure 3 in No. 305.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LES PRÉTENDUES CONCESSIONS DE LA RUSSIE.—Le "Nouveau Temps" consacre un long article à la correspondance adressée de St. Petersbourg au "Times" qui énumère dans des termes beaucoup trop précis les concessions que le Gouvernement Russe serait disposé à faire. Nous avons relevé nous-mêmes le caractère absolu et exagéré, peut-être à dessein, de cette correspondance. Mais laissons parole au "Nouveau Temps" :—

"La Russie pour conserver la paix serait prêt à entrer en négociations directes avec l'Angleterre et à faire toutes les concessions possibles pourvu que le but principal en vue duquel la guerre a été déclarée—la réorganisation politique des provinces Chrétiennes de la Péninsule—soit atteint ; et à la condition que la Russie reçoive une indemnité de guerre convenable. Après le *Pro-Memoria* du Prince Gortschakow on aurait pu s'attendre à ce que l'Angleterre formulat enfin d'une façon précise ses vues quant à la réorganisation politique en Orient. Cependant le Cabinet de Londres continuant à garder le silence, ce serait à la Russie, à ce que l'on prétend, qui proposerait un nouveau programme en sept points :—

"1. Les frontières de la Bulgarie seront fixées par une Commission Internationale conformément aux besoins de la situation.

"2. Au lieu d'un Commissaire Russe préposé à la réorganisation intérieure de la Bulgarie, on pourra nommer à cet effet une Commission Européenne.

"3. La durée de l'occupation des troupes Russes pourrait être abrégée.

"4. La nouvelle Principauté Bulgare sera divisée en deux provinces, comme l'avait proposé le Marquis de Salisbury à la Conférence de Constantinople : Province Danubienne et Provinces des Balkans.

"5. Le mode de paiement de l'indemnité de guerre pourra être réglé par un syndicat Européen, lequel aura à prendre en considération les intérêts des créanciers de la Porte.

"6. Quant aux cessions territoriales en Asie-Mineure la Russie n'insisterait que sur l'abandon de Kars et de Batoum ; pour le reste une transaction est possible.

"7. La Russie se contenterait de l'annexion de la partie de la Bessarabie dont la population est d'origine Russe.

"Ainsi la Russie se désisterait d'une partie de l'indemnité de guerre, renoncerait à la

forteresse de Bayazid et à la vallée d'Alaschkert en Asie ; et en Europe elle ne demanderait qu'une faible portion de la Bessarabie. Ces concessions seraient énormes. Et d'abord, quant à la renonciation à une partie de l'indemnité de guerre, remarquons que les 300,000,000 que la Russie pourrait se faire garantir par les revenus de la nouvelle Bulgarie fournissaient à l'Etat une ressource considérable, et s'il eut été difficile de réaliser immédiatement toute l'indemnité, du moins on aurait pu le faire à plusieurs termes assez rapprochés. Au lieu de cela, on propose de confier la gestion des finances de la Principauté Bulgare à un Syndicat Européen, qui consacrera pendant une longue suite d'années les finances en question à l'extinction de l'énorme dette contractée par la Porte dans ces derniers temps. L'abandon de Bayazid et d'Alaschkert nous priverait des seuls points stratégiques qui puissent préserver nos frontières contre toute attaque des Turcs ; ensuite la vallée d'Alaschkert, ayant Bayazid pour clef, a une importance politique et économique de premier ordre. Une route commerciale très-fréquentée la traverse : d'un côté elle conduit à Erzéroum et Trébizonde ; de l'autre vers la Perse et les mers d'Orient. Les quatre premiers points du programme ci-dessus peuvent également soulever des objections. Confier la délimitation de la nouvelle Bulgarie et sa réorganisation à l'Europe, c'est vite dit ; mais pendant le temps que la Commission Internationale emploiera à élaborer son programme, la Russie devra maintenir sur pied, au détriment de ses finances, des forces armées imposantes. Il se peut que la dite Commission trouve que la Bulgarie ne doit pas s'étendre jusqu'aux Balkans, que les Turcs soient obligés de tenir garnison dans les forteresses Danubiennes ; il est possible que cette Commission, par crainte de l'influence Russe, dote la Bulgarie d'une organisation qui entrave à jamais le développement de l'élément Slave et la condamne à être tributaire de l'Angleterre, de la France et d'autres Puissances encore. N'est-ce pas vers ce but qu'aspire la diplomatie Occidentale, dont la pensée a été si bien interprétée par le 'Journal des Débats ?' Et la Russie déserterait sa mission historique pour l'unique sauvegarde des intérêts mercantiles de l'Europe ? Cela est à peine admissible. Cependant le refus de s'incliner devant ces exigences implique peut-être le danger d'une coalition de l'Europe entière contre nous ? Au fond, les concessions, qui sont énoncées dans les sept points susmentionnés, ne sauraient être l'objet d'un examen critique, en ce sens qu'elles s'inspirent à des pensées trop généreuses et parce que les Turcs ont été assez châtiés pour avoir renoncé à leur domination sur les Chrétiens. Il en découlerait également que l'Angleterre n'aurait pas le parti-pris de faire la guerre et qu'elle serait disposée à un arrangement à l'amiable. Or, le Cabinet Tory n'a pas cédé dans un moment où il avait à lutter contre une opposition imposante ; cédera-t-il lorsqu'il lui a été donné d'égarer à ce point la nation que celle-ci se croit obligée de combattre la politique envahissante de la Russie. Les discours des Ministres Hardy et Cross suffisent à vous éclairer ; ils nous disent : 'Faites abnégation complète, de vous mêmes, déchirer le Traité de San Stefano ; passez sous les fourches caudines du Traité de Paris, et alors nous penserons à effectuer les réformes dans les provinces Chrétiennes, et encore voulons-nous qu'elles émanent de nous autres, Anglais.' Le 'Times,' en insérant la lettre de son correspondant de St. Pétersbourg, dont nous venons de donner l'analyse, saisit cette occasion pour entretenir le public des terribles préparatifs qui se font à l'intention de la Russie et qui, il l'espère, inspireront à celle-ci une salutaire terreur. Puis se reprenant, le 'Times' dit : 'Non, quoique la Russie puisse faire dans la voie des concessions, sa franchise nous sera suspecte. Si tant est qu'elle soit disposée à un arrangement que la Russie accepte les mêmes bases que celles qui ont été arrêtées après la guerre de Crimée. Ce sera suffisant pour satisfaire l'Angleterre.' C'est vraiment une dérision que ce langage : il signifie que nous devrions retourner au Traité de Paris, quitter la Turquie et la laisser à la merci de nos adversaires."

LE DISCOURS DE MR CROSS.—Voici l'article du "Golos" que nous avons signalé :—

"Les Ministres Anglais viennent les uns après les autres entretenir le public des affaires d'Orient. Mais ils se gardent de tenir un langage précis qui laissât voir ce que l'Angleterre voudrait et sur quoi elle se fonde en réclamant que le Traité de San Stefano soit en entier soumis à l'examen du Congrès. Toutefois on comprend qu'il s'agit de maintenir les Déclarations de 1871. Le Congrès n'est pas, selon l'opinion de Mr. Cross, susceptible de mener à un résultat quelconque, si un Traité risque d'être entériné par une des Puissances signataires. On ne saurait trop s'étonner de l'étourderie avec laquelle les Ministres Anglais parlent de la Déclaration de 1871 ! Croient-ils donc que l'on ignore les clauses interdisant à chacune des Puissances contractantes l'entrée de la Mer de Marmara sans l'assentiment de la Porte ? En admettant que le Traité de San Stefano apporte des changements au Traité de 1871, ces changements n'ont été admis qu'en théorie pour

ainsi dire, puisque le Traité n'est point entré en vigueur et n'existe que sur le papier. L'Angleterre elle a été plus loin dans cette voie; de sa part il y a eu violation flagrante du Traité de 1871: la flotte Britannique est dans la Mer de Marmara. Quelle autre preuve plus palpable veut-on? L'Angleterre la première a déchiré la Déclaration de 1871, dont pourtant elle entend imposer le respect à la Russie. Elle viole ouvertement une Convention qu'elle considère cependant comme obligatoire pour la Russie. Loin de se justifier, le Cabinet Britannique, par l'organe de Mr. Hardy, a déclaré qu'il a le droit de faire entrer sa flotte dans la Mer de Marmara. Mais, demanderons-nous alors, si l'une des Puissances signataires s'arroge un pareil droit que devient la validité du Traité en question? Ce serait le comble de l'illogisme s'il n'y avait pas là un parti-pris de rendre tout rapprochement impossible. Et pourtant il y a encore des optimistes qui prétendent que la Russie est entrée en pourparlers directs avec l'Angleterre. Si la chose est vraie, nous en tirons la conclusion que la médiation des Puissances neutres ayant échoué, on en est arrivé à la phase décisive des explications qui précède de peu une rupture."

No. 306.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 515.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose in translation, by Mr. Stephen, an interesting article published in this day's German "St. Petersburger Gazette," on the difficult and dangerous position of the Russian army south of the Balkans, pointing evidently to the occupation of Shumla as a strategic position to secure a depôt for arms and artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS

Inclosure in No. 306.

Extract from the German "St. Petersburger Gazette" of May 8, 1878.

THE German "St. Petersburger Gazette," commenting on the difficult nature of the task allotted to General Todleben upon his assumption of the command of the army of the south, says that history will one day explain why the Russian troops remained in front of Constantinople without occupying it.

It is not yet the moment, says the article, to settle this question; and if we touch upon it at all it is only to point out that in consequence of the non-occupation of Gallipoli the English fleet entered the Sea of Marmora, and that the result of the non-occupation of Constantinople has been that the most important point in European Turkey remains in the hands of the Turks, who can thus at any time mass together 200,000 men in the neighbourhood of the capital and assail our front, or, with the aid of the English fleet, attack our flank. Besides this, it is clear that when Turkey made peace she never intended to carry out its conditions. The most important strategical points, such as Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, remain in her hands. Moreover, she has been fostering the insurrection in Roumelia, with the full knowledge that in no way is an army more weakened than in the effort to suppress a popular disturbance. On the other hand, in our rear, Roumania is hostilely inclined towards us, and Austria stands prepared at any moment to attack our flank. Thus General Todleben is ringed in on all sides by enemies, and sits with his army in a cage between the Balkans and the sea.

The Commander-in-chief, however, has rich and spacious ground at his disposal, but to carry out a war of defence with success, measures must be taken in good time to secure depôts for arms and artillery. What is to be expected from a renewal of hostilities? That Todleben will have to repulse the attacks of more than one army will be the probable sequence. The delay which England is causing is undoubtedly with a view to force us, owing to the dangerous position of our army beyond the Balkans, to renounce all the fruits of the campaign in order to be able to withdraw our valiant troops, and be spared the humiliation of having to lay all our flags and arms at the feet of the Queen of England. There is nothing to be hoped for from the reports circulating as to the chances of peace. Should there be peace, it will be at

such a sacrifice for Russia that a fresh war would be preferable. In the event of war Todleben's task would be a harder one than that of the defence of Sebastopol. He would have to do more than defend a line of communication with Russia, he would have to defend ground which would be assailed by enemies on all sides; he would be forced to form that portion of the Balkan peninsula held by the Russian troops into one fortified camp, so as to be able to encounter the respective attacks with corresponding force.

This is a more difficult task than any other that war has presented. Let us hope that General Todleben will acquit himself with as much glory as he has always previously done.

No. 307.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 516.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the Fortnightly Report of the Imperial Bank of Russia, to the $\frac{24th\ April}{6th\ May}$, by which your Lordship will see that the issue of extra paper roubles since the commencement of the Turkish war now amounts to the sum of 366,500,000 roubles, an increase of 139,620,000 roubles since my last report on the 27th October, 1877.

This places the present circulation of paper roubles at 1,093,410,155 roubles, which is represented by the metallic reserve of the Bank by only 180,085,802 roubles in the Bank cellars.

The following are the various loans, internal and external, by the Imperial Government since the commencement of the war:—

	Roubles.	Roubles.
1. The four emissions of 5 per cent. bank billets, nominal amount	.. ..	100,000,000
2. Oriental internal loan	.. ..	200,000,000
3. Foreign loan of 1877 (15,000,000*l.*)	.. ..	150,000,000
4. 4½ per cent. Treasury bonds, redeemable in twelve months—		
1. Emission	50,000,000	
2. ,, ...	50,000,000	
And power to issue another	100,000,000	
In all	.. ..	200,000,000
5. Advances of State Bank, termed advances "faites pour compte des succursales" .		366,500,000
Total	.. ..	1,016,500,000

The war may, therefore, be said to have cost up to the present date 916,500,000 roubles, or at present rate of exchange about 91½ millions sterling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{April\ 24}{May\ 6}$ 1878.

BILAN de la Banque de Russie au 24 Avril, 1878.

I.—*Compte du Fonds d'Echange et des Billets de Crédit.*

Actif.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Passif.	Rs. c.
1. Encaisse métallique—				
Or	124,656,305 27			
Argent	[illegible]			
Fonds publics métalliques	32,309,997 08	180,085,802 67		
2. Découvert du Trésor pour les billets de crédit		546,824,352 33	1. Billets de crédit en circulation	726,910,155 00
		726,910,155 00		726,910,155 00

II.—*Compte des Opérations Commerciales.*

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Caisse—		
Or et argent en espèces et en lingots	5,024,636 63	
Billets de crédit à 5 pour cent, &c. ..	6,984,189 85	
		11,009,826 48
2. Effets escomptés		14,602,703 41
3. Garantie des comptes spéciaux—		
En effets		30,376,881 20
En fonds publics		19,237,000 83
Marchandises		171,000 00
4. Avances sur marchandises		417,819 00
5. Avances sur fonds publics		8,867,754 74
6. Avances sur actions et obligations ..		33,916,762 96
7. Sommes remises au Lombard de St. Pétersbourg pour prêts sur gages		4,681,027 04
8. Sommes remises au Lombard de Moscou pour prêts sur gages		2,359,500 00
9. Effets en souffrance		5,853 10
10. Obligations en souffrance		38,241 67
11. Valeurs publiques appartenant à la Banque		21,771,197 01
12. Dépôts en garde (or et argent) ..		1,666,690 97
13. Capital des succursales		10,300,000 00
14. Dépenses d'administration de la Banque, des succursales et autres		263,331 66
15. Compte courant avec les succursales ..		..
16. Dépenses courantes pour compte du Trésor		362,726,725 41
17. Fonds métalliques ou espèces servant de garantie au remboursement des quittances de la Banque		359,929 71
18. Sommes dépensées par la Banque de Russie pour compte des anciens établissements de crédit en liquidation..		90,536,836 01
		611,709,163 55

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Capital de fondation		25,000,000 00
2. Capital de réserve		2,928,191 36
3. Comptes courants à intérêts		44,281,023 70
4. Comptes courants spéciaux		12,146,959 05
5. Comptes courants sans intérêts		9,022,283 09
6. Comptes courants du Trésor et des autres administrations		..
7. Dépôts à intérêts de la Banque de Russie—		
	Rs. c.	
A 3 pour cent ..	21,336,116 58	
A 4 pour cent ..	1,884,573 36	
A 4½ pour cent ..	4,082,373 51	
		27,302,063 45
8. Intérêts des aux déposants de la Banque de Russie		2,863,001 63
9. Billets à ordre		39,300,426 26
10. Sommes diverses portées sur le compte transitoire		5,580,633 05
11. Compte courant avec les succursales ..		63,287,323 80
12. Intérêts perçus sur les opérations ..		2,140,216 83
13. Dépôt en garde (or et argent)		1,666,690 97
14. Profits et pertes sur les opérations de l'année 1877		7,353,241 36
15. Capital destiné à la construction des bâtiments des succursales de la Banque de Russie		166,007 27
16. Réescompte de l'année 1877		..
17. Billets de crédit émis pour compte des succursales		356,300,000 00
18. Quittances métalliques de la Banque en circulation	Rs. c. 316,566 50	
19. Profits d'escompte sur les contre-valeurs des quittances métalliques.	44,363 21	
		359,929 71
20. Réescompte de l'année 1877		583,380 11
		611,709,163 55

III.—*Liquidation des Anciens Établissements de Crédit.*

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Dette du Trésor provenant des emprunts faits aux établissements de crédit ..	..	
2. Capital de la dette hypothécaire des particuliers aux établissements de crédit (payable en annuités de 15 à 37 ans) ..	63,036,366 67	
3. Valeurs publiques acceptées en paiement de la dette hypothéquée	9,628,752 97	
4. Dette remboursable sur les annuités de l'opération du rachat—	Rs. c.	
(a) Pour le rachat des terrains ..	274,559,546 93	
(b) En paiement des anciens emprunts sur les propriétés foncières ..	51,625,350 00	
		325,214,896 93
5. Dette spéciale du Trésor provenant des avances faites sur l'opération du rachat ..	1,349,650 00	
6. Sommes payées sur les coupons et les billets de la Banque à 5 pour cent 1re et 2e émissions	..	
	401,129,666 57	

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Dépôts à intérêts reportés des anciens établissements de crédit		13,658,538 57
2. Intérêts dus aux déposants des anciens établissements de crédit		4,818,378 17
3. Billets de la Banque de Russie à 5 pour cent		292,770,500 00
4. Sommes reçues pour compte des anciens établissements de crédit		3,102,511 83
5. Intérêts perçus sur les opérations à long terme		10,325,061 95
6. Compte avec les directions de l'assistance publique et autres établissements de crédit		4,029,990 82
7. Annuités de l'opération du rachat ..		27,323,130 69
8. Sommes assignées pour le paiement des billets de Banque à 5 pour cent et des coupons 1re et 2e émissions		598,366 36
9. Profits et pertes de la liquidation des anciens établissements de crédit		43,256,332 23
10. Compte de la Banque de Russie avec les anciens établissements de crédit en liquidation		90,536,836 01
		401,129,666 57

* Outre cela les fonds publics pour la somme de 520,353,217 rs. 33 c.

Le Gouverneur de la Banque de Russie,
(Signé) E. LAMANSKY.

No. 308.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 518.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

IN a conversation to-day with M. de Giers, his Excellency stated that the negotiations for the surrender of Shumla, which had been commenced by the Grand Duke Nicholas and were continued by General Todleben, had not made much progress, the Turks continually promising to fulfil their engagements, but fixing no dates for doing so. The Turkish Government, however, had never refused to evacuate the fortress.

I trust, therefore, that this important strategic position still is, and will remain in Turkish hands until the definite conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 309.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 519.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a Memorandum by Mr. Michell of an announcement which has appeared in the "Golos" of the return of the Finnish Guard from San Stefano, and indicating the losses of the battalion during the campaign and in its homeward journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 309.

Substance of Article in the "Golos" of $\frac{\text{April 26}}{\text{May 7}}$, 1878.

RETURN OF THE FINNISH GUARD FROM THE SEAT OF WAR TO ST. PETERSBURGH.—The "Golos" of the $\frac{\text{26th April}}{\text{7th May}}$, 1878, contains an account of the return of the Finnish rifle battalion (Finnish Guard) from San Stefano. This battalion started for the seat of war with a complement of 1,000 men. During the campaign it was reinforced on two occasions by 600 men, and now returns to the capital with only 650 men. When the battalion started from Odessa on the $\frac{1}{13}$th April last there were more than 700 men in the ranks, but on the route from that place to St. Petersburgh it left about 80 men at different hospitals, the majority of whom were taken ill with typhus fever. The head-quarters of this battalion are at Helsingfors, for which place it leaves St. Petersburgh on the $\frac{\text{26th April}}{\text{7th May}}$.

No. 310.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 521. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 8, 1878.

IN conversation to-day with M. de Giers, his Excellency informed me confidentially that a proposal from your Lordship had been communicated by Prince Bismarck respecting the withdrawal of the army and fleet from the vicinity of Constantinople.

His Excellency did not state the nature of the proposal; but merely said that it was not favourably entertained here. No answer, however, would be made to Prince Bismarck until Count Schouvaloff arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 311.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Poti, April* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 9th instant the Commandant of the troops at Poti, accompanied by several officers and an interpreter, was sent in the little steamer "Babushka" to Batoum for the alleged purpose of arranging the surrender of that place.

On the steamer's arrival it was found that Dervish Pasha had left in an iron-clad for Tchikinjeric, whither the "Babushka" followed.

The interview lasted about an hour, but was without result.

Consequently on the 12th instant General Oglobshoi, Commander-in-chief of the army of the Rhion, left Poti by the same steamer for Tchikinjeric, and had a long interview with Dervish Pasha, with whom he dined on board a Turkish iron-clad.

On the General's return he casually remarked that he was no better for his journey save that he had enjoyed a good dinner.

I hear through Turks who have lately reached Poti that the work of fortifying Batoum goes on as usual; that a large fortress has just been commenced; and that the Turkish Commander has no idea of surrendering it.

From the great number of Turkish sandals now at Poti loading maize, there appears to be a great dearth of provisions in Anatolia and Lazistan; from six to ten cargoes were usually shipped here annually, whilst at this present time there are in the Rhion seventy of these small vessels, of an average burden of 30 tons, all loading or waiting to load maize.

Turkish vessels are not permitted to load at any of the small ports north of Poti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 312.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Poti, April 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Poti of two steamers belonging to the Russian Steam Navigation Company with two battalions of recruits. By far the largest proportion of these new levies were mere boys, apparently from 16 to 20 years of age, and are no doubt intended to replace the veteran troops and wounded from Armenia that are embarking at Poti for Odessa.

Two hundred sick and wounded soldiers reach Poti by the ordinary passenger trains of the Poti and Tiflis Railway Company daily, and are forwarded from here by steamer to Sebastopol, Odessa, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 313.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Poti, April 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just heard from a reliable person, who was present, of a visit made by Colonel Kasbee, one of the staff of General Oglobshoi to Dervish Pasha at Tchikinjeri, with the intention of fixing a date for the surrender of Batoum.

Colonel Kasbee used all means to obtain an interview in the fortress, and sent officers several times to endeavour to arrange a meeting within the walls, but met with a very cold reception from the Pasha, who at first declined all intercourse. Finding it, therefore, quite impossible to gain his object, the Colonel reluctantly consented to go on board a Turkish frigate lying near the shore. After Colonel Kasbee had stated the purport of his visit Dervish Pasha informed him that he had no orders to evacuate the town; as a General he was placed there to defend it, and if Colonel Kasbee required an answer to his proposition his course was to apply through his Government to Constantinople.

Colonel Kasbee is the same officer who three years ago made an excursion in Lazistan, accompanied by Prince Gregory of Gouriel, under the pretence of visiting all the ruins of Christian churches in the country, but in reality to survey it from a military point of view. Prince Gregory of Gouriel is very popular in Gouriel and

Lazistan, consequently both he and Colonel Kasbee were most hospitably entertained by the unsuspecting Turks.

Colonel Kasbee afterwards published two works entitled "Georgia in Turkey," one for the general public, the other for the sole use of the Government, a copy of which I have seen in private hands, but am unacquainted with its contents.

I had the honour to forward an account of the visit of Colonel Kasbee to Lazistan in my correspondence with Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa shortly after Colonel Kasbee's return.

The inhabitants of Lazistan, a brave, hardy race of mountaineers, detest the thought of becoming Russian subjects, and on its being reported a few days ago that the Russians had arrived to take possession of Batoum, the proprietors and occupiers of many of the small wooden shops in the bazaar immediately set fire to them and prepared to depart. The place was only saved through the prompt measures taken by the Commandant of the regular troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 314.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Warsaw, May 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the following are the exact details of the present strength of the forces in the Kingdom of Poland. My information has been obtained with great care and necessary secrecy, and comes from various distinct and entirely reliable sources.

Your Lordship will observe that it agrees with that which I had recently the honour of forwarding to your Lordship. The discrepancy between the figures given in my despatches No. 10 of the 16th ultimo and No. 11 of the 1st instant, and the present one, as compared with my cypher telegram to your Lordship of the 13th ultimo, arises from the fact that the fortress of Brzesc, where 43,000 troops are now concentrated, is not usually considered to belong to the Kingdom of Poland, being beyond the frontier; hence it was not included, either by the Polish gentlemen or by my colleagues to whom I addressed myself. But as it has been made a part of the military arrondissement of the kingdom, I have so considered it.

The military district of Augustoff, however, which forms the northern extremity of the kingdom, being called "la tête de la Pologne," is included for military purposes in the Wilna district. I wish also to be allowed to state that my despatch, in cypher, of the 1st instant (No. 11) was sent by me to your Lordship several hours previous to the receipt of your Lordship's cypher telegram of that date.

The following then is the present number of troops in the military arrondissement of the Kingdom of Poland: 84 battalions of infantry, 60 squadrons of cavalry, and about 12,000 artillery and engineers.

In addition to these there are 6 battalions of infantry, and 6 squadrons of cavalry, in the district of Augustoff.

The former troops are distributed as follows:—

37,000 trained soldiers of all arms of the service, and 6,000 recruits in the fortress of Brzesc and its vicinity.

4,000 soldiers, and 2,000 recruits, in the fortress of Modlin (or Novogeorgievsk).

2,000 soldiers, and 1,500 recruits, in the fortress of Demblin (or Ivangorod).

27,000 soldiers, and 3,000 recruits, in the Government of Warsaw.

8,000 men in the Government of Lublin.

7,000 men in the Government of Radom.

6,000 men in the Government of Siedlec.

5,000 men in the Government of Plotsk.

4,000 men in the Government of Kielce.

This gives a total strength of 112,500 men of all arms of the service, of whom 12,500 are recruits, exclusive of some 6,000 in the district of Augustoff.

Of these forces, 6,000 are cavalry, mostly effective, and very well horsed; they are pretty evenly divided among the several above-named military districts. The artillery are for the most part in the garrisons, there being, I am told, only 6 effective field batteries.

Only one of the fortresses, namely Brzese, is on a war footing, and plentifully supplied with all munitions of war.

The Control and Medical Departments are generally in a disorganized and ineffective state.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 315.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 562.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an extract from the Turkish paper the "Vakit," relating to the rising of the Mussulman population in Mount Rhodope and its causes. The statement that Christians have joined the Mahommedans has been confirmed to me by the Porte. It is said that the Greeks of Roumelia are in communication with the insurgents, and are prepared to unite with them in resisting the attempt to place them under Russo-Bulgarian rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 315.

Extract from the "Vaquit" of May 1, 1878.

.. UN REGARD VERS LES BALCANS.—Dans notre édition d'hier nous avions publié un examen très succint par rapport au mouvement récent des Musulmans du côté des Balcans. Nous y avions été induit à la suite des informations douloureuses qui nous parvenaient journellement de ce côté.

Or, comme ces nouvelles deviennent de plus en plus sérieuses, nous croyons devoir revenir sur la question.

Le fait que le nombre des habitants Musulmans du côté des Balcans, qui, dans leur désespoir, prirent les armes, va toujours en augmentant, et qu'à ce mouvement de résistance se sont associés des habitants non-Musulmans, ne peut que nous offrir la preuve d'une recrudescence d'iniquité et d'oppression exercée sur eux. Les détails en sont tellement révoltants que qui a un sein de foi et de modération, non-seulement s'abstiendrait de les connaître, mais il aurait honte même de les concevoir. Quant à nous, nous avons certainement honte de fournir les détails de nos informations à nos lecteurs, et nous nous bornerons à constater que d'après ce qui nous revient, les Bulgars ne se font aucun scrupule d'attenter à la vie, à l'honneur et à la propriété de ces pauvres habitants. Nous sommes certains que le Gouvernement Russe ne saurait ni sanctionner officiellement de pareilles iniquités, ni consentir à ce qu'ils aient lieu, attendu qu'il n'y a pas dans l'univers entier un homme civilisé ou sauvage qui ne les réprouve. Cependant après les informations fournies par les correspondans des journaux Européens, il y a aussi des officiers Russes, qui, pour satisfaire à leurs passions, s'emparent des filles Musulmanes, et que même ils auraient été pour cela reprémandés par le Commandant-en-chef. Lorsqu'on délibérait avec le Grand Duc Nicolas pour le rapatriement des émigrés, son Altesse avait fait observer que l'on pouvait de toutes les manières garantir la sûreté des émigrés dans le pays occupé par les Russes, mais que l'on n'en pouvait répondre pour le pays où il n'y a que des Bulgares. Cette réponse mérite d'être prise en sérieuse considération.

Il en ressort qu'il est officiellement reconnu par les Russes que les Bulgares ne sont pas un peuple digne de confiance.

Le but de la guerre actuelle avait été, d'après ce que le monde a entendu, la délivrance de la Bulgarie de l'oppression Musulmane, mais qui sauvera les Musulmans de la nouvelle Bulgarie de l'oppression qui est organisée contre eux? Depuis dix ans que l'Empire Ottoman est fondé, il n'y a pas de précédent dans l'histoire où la propriété et l'honneur d'une classe quelconque de population aient été ainsi livrés à l'arbitraire, et le monde entier a pu constater que lorsque la question actuelle eut surgi les Bulgares, dont on disaient qu'ils étaient opprimés, étaient en réalité un peuple dont la propriété, la religion, et la liberté étaient parfaitement garanties sous l'égide du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Jusqu'à présent les rumeurs qui circulaient étaient toujours à l'effet que la propriété, l'honneur et la

vie des Bulgares étaient attaquées par les Musulmans, que dira-t-on maintenant des iniquités qui ont lieu? Y a-t-il une loi que les autorise? Notre but en prononçant ces paroles amères n'est pas d'incriminer ni les Russes ni les Bulgares, attendu qu'à l'heure qu'il est l'affaire est tellement avancée, qu'il n'est point nécessaire de nous donner cette peine. Tout cela se passe au vu et au su de tout le monde. Notre plus ardent désir est que l'on mette fin à un pareil état de choses. Si l'on vit dans le siècle de civilisation et de progrès, si ce qu'on appelle l'Europe est vraiment la gardienne de la civilisation, elle ne devrait pas tolérer plus longtemps ces actes honteux et iniques. Une négligence à cet égard ne ferait que la déshonneur devant la postérité, et elle ne devrait jamais accepter une pareille tâche. Que peut-on dire de plus?

No. 316.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 563.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 3, 1878.

I REQUESTED Mr. Sandison to make inquires as to the rising stated to have taken place amongst the Mahommedans of the Turkish provinces in Europe occupied by the Russians, and to obtain for me information on the subject from persons acquainted with what is passing in Roumelia and Albania. I have the honour to inclose a copy of a confidential report that he has made to me.

It is greatly to be feared that the Mussulman population, exasperated by the shocking treatment to which they have been subjected by the Russians and Bulgarians, will revenge themselves upon the latter, and that we shall have fresh scenes of slaughter and devastation, especially if the Mahommedans of the mountain districts of Roumelia are joined by the Albanians, who resent the annexation of any part of their country to Bulgaria, and by the Greeks, who have already learnt what they are to expect under Russo-Bulgarian rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, May* 2, 1878.

ALTHOUGH your Excellency is already acquainted with the present feeling existing amongst the Mussulmans of Roumelia in reference to the limits assigned to Bulgaria, it may be well to state that the natural desire for national preservation has risen to such a pitch as to lead, in all probability, to important combined action on the part of the Mahommedan races of European Turkey, the object of which would be determined resistance to the proposed extension of Bulgaria by means of a protracted guerilla warfare, to which North and Central Albania, as well as the Rhodope Mountains and the south-western extremity of the Balkan chain, would be peculiarly adapted.

Information received from various parts of European Turkey tends fully to show the general determination of the Mahommedan populations for a national defence against what they consider to be unjustifiable and cruel treatment, as regards life, honour, and property, experienced by their co-religionists at the hands of the Bulgarians and Russians, and since, it is held, the Sultan's Government is powerless in obtaining the guarantee for some protection in favour of such of its Mahommedan subjects as are at the mercy of their enemies, it is only fair that they should provide for their own safety, even if the Government were to oppose the attempt.

It is already seriously apprehended that a similar state of things can only bring fresh trouble upon the Porte, and cause a repetition of the horrors and calamities of which many parts of European Turkey have already been the scene.

Whilst North and Central Albania, which contain a very large and warlike Mahommedan population, are resolutely protesting against the annexation of Dibra and other districts to Bulgaria, with which they have nothing in common, active preparations are being made in both countries for a general rising, of which it will be easy to foresee the consequences in presence of what is already known of the Albanian

character, which is likely to prove all the more fierce under the present feeling of despair, exasperation, and national humiliation.

Vassa Effendi, a Christian Albanian, and Deputy Governor of the important Vilayet of Kossovo, who possesses great influence with almost all the Ghéga and Turco-Albanian clans, is of opinion that nothing, indeed not even the danger of a Russian invasion of their country, will induce the Albanians to alter their present resolution; they have already sent him a special messenger to say that they are only awaiting the signal to rise and fight in the defence of their country, to which he wisely replied by advising them to keep quiet for the present.

Whilst such are the dangers to be apprehended from that quarter, the insurrection in the Rhodope Mountains is evidently daily gaining ground, and gradually receiving the support of the Mahommedan refugees now at Constantinople, who have already formed a secret committee for the purpose of obtaining the co-operation of the Greek element in Thrace and Macedonia, and devising means of sending by sea to designated localities on the coast (of Thrace), the greater portion of the valid refugees who feel naturally desirous of joining their fellow-countrymen in arms on the Rhodope Mountains, in preference to enduring the miseries of life which now attend them in the khans and mosques of Constantinople. Four hundred of their number have already left for the seat of the insurrection, with the assurance of being provided with arms and ammunition from the large supplies represented to have been abandoned by Suleiman Pasha's army.

The insurgents now in arms in the Rhodope Mountains are stated to amount to a very considerable number, and to include many thousands of trained and experienced soldiers belonging to the said army.

In the meantime another insurrection is reported to have broken out in the Balkans, but in what part thereof it is not clearly stated. The news has reached the Porte from the Russian head-quarters at San Stefano, through one of the Government secret agents, who represents the Russian general officers in a state of considerable anxiety, owing to the total want of news during the last three or four days from General Zimmermann, who had been sent at the head of a Russian force against the so-called Balkan insurgents.

It may be worth mentioning, that the same authority describes the Russian Generals as being still more uneasy in view of a war with England, which they consider might greatly compromise the safety of the Russian army now at San Stefano. Not to speak of the present weak state of the soldiers, attributable to fatigue and other trials of the late campaign, the present position of the Russian army might, they seem to say, present all the dangers of a perfect trap in the event of a landing of British troops at Gallipoli or other points in the Straits, which would necessarily lead to a general dash of the Turkish forces at Constantinople, thus placing the Russian army between the fire of two formidable enemies. It is precisely the thought of this danger there which confirms the suspicion existing for some time past, that no sooner will the political situation become more threatening, than the Russians would make a dash at the heights of Kavak, for the purpose of commanding the entrance into the Black Sea, and of thus securing a retreat by water to Odessa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 317.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 561.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Petition addressed by the inhabitants of Varna to the Sublime Porte, protesting against the inclusion of their vilayet in the proposed new Bulgarian Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 317.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of May 2, 1878.

OTTOMANS ET BULGARES EN ROUMELIE.—Notre correspondant de Varna nous communique la Pétition suivante, qui a été adressée, en date du 30 Avril, à la Sublime Porte par la population de Varna. Ce document porte un grand nombre de signatures, parmi lesquelles figurent autant de Grecs, d'Arméniens, d'Israélites que de Musulmans. Voici la substance de cette pétition, qui n'est pas sans avoir son importance:—

"Depuis environ trois siècles, Chrétiens et Musulmans nous vivions en frères dans notre pays. Un ennemi implacable, uniquement pour satisfaire à ses vues ambitieuses, a fomenté la guerre civile parmi nous. Se couvrant ensuite d'un masque humanitaire, il a déclaré la guerre à l'Empire, soi-disant pour améliorer le sort des Chrétiens, tandis que son vrai dessein était d'agrandir, sous une forme déguisée, son propre territoire.

"Cependant, une nombreuse population a dû abandonner précipitamment ses foyers, fuyant pêle-mêle devant le feu et le fer destructifs des Cosaques et des forcenés Bulgares que l'ennemi a armés pour l'aider dans l'accomplissement de son odieux projet.

"Cette malheureuse population s'est réfugiée dans une nudité complète au sud du Vilayet du Danube, c'est-à-dire dans la Province de Varna et ses environs. Mais bientôt elle est tombée entre les mains d'un ennemi tout aussi cruel que les Cosaques et les insurgés Bulgares; nous voulons dire la faim et une misère affreuse. Placée entre ces deux fléaux, à savoir la férule du Bulgare et l'horreur de la faim, n'osant retourner chez elle, et ne pouvant rester dans un pays qui ne lui offrait la moindre ressource, en dehors des secours accordés par le Gouvernement Impérial comme par la charité privée, secours, d'ailleurs, forcément insuffisants eu égard à ses besoins, cette malheureuse population offrait un spectacle affreux. Sur ces entrefaites l'armistice fut signé et quelque temps après la paix fut conclue.

"Sur les assurances données par la Porte à la suite de l'entente établie entre les deux Cabinets de Constantinople et de St. Pétersbourg, que les émigrés pouvaient retourner chez eux en toute sécurité, ces pauvres gens commencèrent à respirer un peu, et peu à peu ils essayèrent de regagner leurs villages. Mais quelle déception cruelle! Ils furent plus maltraités que pendant la guerre. Ils furent accueillis de la part de leurs compatriotes par les mêmes procédés qui les avaient accompagnés à leur départ: vol, pillage, incendie, viol, meurtre, rien ne leur fut épargné, ce qui força ces malheureux à reprendre de nouveau le chemin de l'émigration."

Après avoir dépeint ainsi l'affreuse situation de la population Musulmane, les pétitionnaires, parmi lesquels se trouvent également des Délégués de la Province de Toultcha, protestent instamment contre l'annexation à la Nouvelle-Bulgarie de la Province de Varna et de ce dernier sandjak. Pour la Province de Varna, ils invoquent à l'appui de leur assertion le Tableau statistique ci-après qui indique les chiffres respectifs des différents éléments qui composent la population de ce sandjak. Voici ce Tableau:—

Musulmans	57,000
Grecs	12,000
Arméniens	2,000
Israélites	100
Total de la population non-Bulgare	71,100
Chiffre de la population Bulgare	13,000
Chiffre total de la population du Sandjak de Varna	84,100

Les pétitionnaires démontrent que, dans la Province de Toultcha également, la grande majorité de la population est Musulmane, et que les Bulgares ne forment qu'une minorité relativement faible.

No. 318.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 44. Political.)
My Lord,

Trebizond, April 20, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of yesterday evening, I telegraphed this morning to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as follows:—

"I received yesterday evening a telegram signed by twenty-nine Laz Beys, referring

to a former telegram, and begging for British protection to prevent annexation of Batoum to Russia. I sent your Excellency copy of it by French steamer, which was leaving that moment for Constantinople."

A few hours after the transmission of this telegram a deputation of fourteen Laz Beys, headed by Tsuruksouli Osman Pasha, called on me unannounced.

They informed me that they had landed a few hours before from the steamer arrived from Batoum, and had come straight to the Consulate; that they were delegated by the population of the Lazistan to urge their being protected by Great Britain in order to prevent their country from being annexed to Russia. They were all very much moved, and some of them actually shed tears.

They said that they would submit to anything rather than accept Russian rule; that if no remedy is found to prevent annexation they will die to the last man, woman, and child before giving up their country, and that they commit their case to the hands of Great Britain, whose intervention on their behalf can prevent the sacrifice of 200,000 lives.

They added that thousands of their countrymen have died in the last war in order to defend their native soil, and that the surviving are burning with despair, seeing that after they have succeeded in defeating all the efforts of the Russians their country is to be handed over to them.

They trust that the humanity and justice of the British nation will not allow this iniquity.

Immediately after this interview I forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador the following telegram:—

"Fourteen Laz Beys, delegated by the populations of the Lazistan, have arrived here a few hours ago, and have just called upon me, accompanied by Osman Pasha. They confirm the contents of their telegram of yesterday, and add that they will die rather than submit to Russia. They beg with tears for British protection to prevent the sacrifice of 200,000 lives. They were delegated in consequence of the Russians having declared that they will spend Easter in Batoum. The Beys have reason to believe that orders have been transmitted by the Porte to give up the place."

I may add that in the course of my conversation with the Beys, having hinted to the propriety of their informing the Pasha of their having called on me in a body, they answered that as the Porte had abandoned them they did not care about what it might think of the step taken by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 319.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 22, 1878.

OSMAN PASHA, who is Head Delegate, with a few of the fourteen Laz Beys, called on me yesterday, and handed me a document signed by them all, and in consequence of which I forwarded immediately the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Osman Pasha and the fourteen Laz delegates have just handed me a document signed by them referring to telegrams sent to your Excellency, Parliament, and myself, under date of 5th and 6th instant, and to their interviews with me yesterday, and declaring that they consider to have placed themselves under British protection. They state that they are decided to do all that is possible to prevent the annexation of their country to Russia; that nothing will deter them from this resolution; that, being under British protection, they will unfurl the British flag, and under it shed their blood and that of their families until their object is attained; and that, there being but little time to spare, they beg for an answer to their repeated requests."

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of the above-mentioned document, which is couched even in stronger terms than their former declarations to me.

The delegates were more excited than on their previous interviews, owing to every day that elapses shortening the time mentioned as that fixed for the handing over of Batoum.

I repeated to the delegates what I had already stated to Ali and Osman Pashas, as mentioned in my despatch to your Lordship No. of the 19th instant, that my complying with their urgent requests to transmit to Her Majesty's Government their communications

to me should not be taken by them as an encouragement on my part; and I expressed the conviction that British protection would not be granted to them, warning them at the same time against their committing so rash an act as to hoist the British flag.

Dervish Pasha is said to be trying to postpone the evacuation of Batoum by the Turkish troops till after Easter, but in the meantime there is a beginning in the execution of this measure. A company of artillerymen, twelve mountain guns, with train and a number of cases of munitions, have been sent here yesterday, and more are expected in a short time.

It is rumoured that the Laz intend to set fire to Batoum when the measures for its cession are completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Laz Delegates to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.) *April* 5/17, 1878.

WE know that Batoum is to be given up in payment of the war indemnity exacted by Russia, but as long as we are alive we will not submit to its tyrannical rule.

We have placed ourselves in the hands of Great Britain, which is the most humane and just of all nations, in order that our territory and ourselves should be protected and saved from the hands of Russia.

All amongst us who can carry arms are ready to shed their blood at Batoum before surrendering it, the Mussulman populations of which, between males and females, there are 200,000 souls, in order to protect their homes and honour have asked for one or two vessels of war by telegram sent through us under date of the 5th and 6th (17th and 18th) instant, addressed to you, to the Ambassador, to both Houses of Parliament, and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Having heard that the Russians intend to occupy Batoum in a short lapse of time, we have been dispatched by the populations of the Lazistan as their delegates to appear before you personally, as we have done yesterday, and ask what conduct we must follow. Everyone being free in his aspirations, and availing ourselves of this same freedom, we declare, as we have already done by telegraph, that we consider ourselves to be under British protection.

We will therefore, as British subjects, unfurl the British flag and under it be ready, males and females, without exception, to shed our blood in order to save our country from the hands of Russia, leaving, when we die in the attempt, our blood-stained garments as a memento to the rest of the world.

We beg you to give us an early answer, leaving it to you to obtain it through the proper channel as soon as possible.

The Delegates of the Lazistan,
(Follow 11 signatures.)

No. 320.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 46. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 23, 1878.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having wired to me that the telegrams referring to the Lazistan had been received and forwarded to your Lordship, that I must not, without direct instructions from England, hold out any encouragement to the Laz to enter upon hostilities with Russia, and that I must explain to them that British protection cannot be extended to them, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of my reply to Mr. Layard on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, April 26, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING had the honour to receive this morning your Excellency's telegrams of the 21st and 22nd instant, I forwarded to you the following telegram after an interview with the Laz delegates, in which I explained to them, beyond possible misunderstanding, that British protection cannot be extended to them:—

"I have communicated to Laz delegates contents of your Excellency's telegrams, explaining that British protection cannot be extended to them. They answered that should it be attempted to hand over Batoum to Russia before their request is taken into consideration, they will fight even unsupported, and that Russia will not take possession of their native land so long as a Laz remains to defend it."

They added that in consequence of what I had told them in my interviews with them, they were prepared for the answer given by your Excellency, and begged me to express to your Excellency their hearty thanks for your kindness in having transmitted their different requests to Her Majesty's Government, whose answer they are now waiting with the greatest anxiety.

I have always carefully abstained from holding out any encouragement to Ali Pasha, Osman Pasha, and the Laz delegates to enter upon hostilities with Russia, and I am happy to see that your Excellency's instructions to me agree with the conduct I have followed.

Having asked the delegates when they expressed so strongly their decision to fight against Russia, even unsupported, whether they were really expressing the thought of all the Laz populations, they answered that they would be themselves murdered by their countrymen if they were to attempt to calm down their present excitement.

The public opinion, which I share entirely, is that the Laz populations will fight with great animosity to prevent annexation, and that even when Russia takes possession of their country, they will continue for a number of years to carry on in their mountains a guerilla warfare against the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 321.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 47. Political.)

Trebizond, April 24, 1878.

My Lord,

TSURUKSOOLI ALI PASHA has confidentially communicated to me yesterday the plans devised for the defence of the Lazistan.

It would seem that the disarming of the Laz volunteers was not so complete as it was given to understand, and this with the tacit consent of the Porte. 5,000 needle-guns and munitions have remained in their possession.

Twelve Turkish battalions of Redifs and Mustahfiz, numbering about 6,000, consisting of Laz and of neighbouring populations gained to their cause, occupy now the positions in and round Sikiujir, and will hold them in all cases.

The other regular troops which are at Batoum since some time ready for embarkation, belong to more distant provinces. The Laz do not care for their presence there, they would prefer their being sent away, though they feel perfectly confident that, even if ordered to do so, they would not fire a single shot against them.

Ali Pasha said that on the land side they have nothing to fear. They possess 11,000 needle-guns, and have munitions for three months, besides their own arms. The populations are decided to fight to the last; there are artillerymen amongst them; the mountain passes are of very difficult access and easily defended. With a good supply of munitions they can, he feels confident, keep an imposing Russian force at bay for a very long lapse of time.

The vulnerable part is the sea-side. Batoum, he said, is too important for Great Britain to allow it to pass into Russian hands, when the presence of one or two vessels of war can thwart all attempts. He added that even without foreign support they can find the means of defence.

If all hopes of British intervention are lost, they intend to seize upon the two Turkish ironclads which are now in that port.

It would seem that the crew, which all belong to these coasts, can be relied upon. The Laz do not know what the conduct of the officers may be, but if they oppose their intentions they will bind them hand and foot, and supersede them by Laz naval officers. There are several of them, and in the number three engineers.

Such is the plan of the Laz, and I believe them to have pluck enough to carry it out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 322.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Trebizond, April 26, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is reported from Batoum in a letter to my Greek colleague that last Saturday a Russian officer was sent in that town, and intimated to Dervish Pasha that if at the end of a week Batoum was not given up, it would be carried by force.

The description given to the Greek Consul in this letter of the intentions of the Laz populations is identical to that expressed to me here by the Laz delegates.

The latter have informed me this afternoon that six of the Turkish battalions, which were ready for embarkation at Batoum, have been marched back to Sikindzir, and that they were themselves advised to return to their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 323.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 49. Political.)

Trebizond, April 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to report, on the 13th instant, that great excitement prevailed in this province among Mussulmans and Christians, owing to the intended cession of Batoum to Russia.

The arrival of the Laz delegates has so increased this feeling, that an address bearing 943 signatures of the leading Mussulmans and Christians of the town was wired yesterday to the Turkish Prime Minister.

I acquainted immediately Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the fact by the following telegram:—

"An address signed by 943 leading Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of Trebizond has just been wired through the Governor-General to the Turkish Prime Minister, showing that the commercial and political interests of Batoum are so blended with those of Trebizond, that the cession of the former will be the ruin of the latter, and that its inhabitants cannot therefore remain indifferent to the efforts of the Laz to prevent annexation to Russia. Similar addresses are said to be signed in other quarters."

I now beg to transmit, for your Lordship's full information, copy and translation of the address in question.

I can state as yet nothing positive with respect to the addresses said to be signing in other places, but I can assure your Lordship that from all the reports which reach us from other points on the coast, and from the interior of Anatolia, the cession of Batoum is looked upon by the Mussulman populations, without exception, as the disintegration of their Empire, also in Asia.

There is a consequent feeling of irritation against the Government, and should the intended cession become an accomplished fact, it will entirely alienate the populations from the Porte.

Even now, fearing that the latter cannot avert the calamity, they long, like the Laz, for foreign protection, and do not conceal their feelings. And so strong these feelings are that I think I would be within the truth in stating that the whole Mussulman populations of this part of Anatolia would be be but too glad to become British subjects, if only Great Britain, towards which all their hopes are now turned, would take them under her protection.

The distrust of the Mussulmans in their Government is now such, that if it acted alone they would not answer a call to arms, even to save Batoum; but thousands would flock under the colours, if the Porte were supported by a powerful ally.

Nay, I will even say that if Great Britain were to wage war against Russia, and the Porte remain neutral, the Mussulman populations could not be restrained from joining the British standard in imposing numbers, in order to take revenge on the Russians, whose very name is execrated more than ever among them.

The above are not mere appreciations on my part; they are only the expression of what I hear repeated every day by the Mussulmans of all classes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Mussulman and Christian Trebizontis to the Turkish Prime Minister.

(Translation.) *Trebizond, April* $\frac{11}{23}$, 1878.

AS it is known the Treaty of 1856 sealed with the blood of the European nations the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and all those who know of its existence will shed bitter tears at the intended cession of Batoum, which is the most important port, the most formidable place in the Black Sea, and the very key of all Asia.

We inhabitants of Trebizond, sharing the general feeling, must be especially mournful and despondent at the cession, for we cannot help thinking that the Russians will take possession of our country. As long as we are alive we will use all our endeavours to thwart the hypocritical views of Russia, which aim at nothing but the destruction of the law of nations.

Batoum, which is in danger to pass in the hands of Russia, being the very soul of Trebizond, and the commercial and political interests of both places being so blended together as to make a whole, we cannot do otherwise, when we see the inhabitants of Batoum holding the sword in one hand and asking assistance from the other, in order to evade Russian oppression, than make our voice heard at the Sublime Porte. In the present state of things it is to be feared that Batoum will be taken possession of by the Russians either by artifice or in drowning all the inhabitants, children included, numbering 200,000 souls, in blood.

If Batoum falls in either one or the other way (which God forbid) in the power of Russia, Trebizond will be not only utterly ruined, but also, when the populations of Batoum will take up arms, there being no barrier between that and this place, there is no doubt that blood will flow along all the coast of the Black Sea.

Therefore, we inhabitants of Trebizond, moved by patriotic feeling, must raise our voice even before the populations of Batoum, and await with anxiety the orders of the Government, which we beg you to communicate to us at your earliest convenience.

(Follow 943 signatures of Mussulmans and Christians.)

No. 324.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 50. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 28, 1878.

AT the urgent request of the Laz delegates who handed me, at 10 P.M. yesterday, a paper, which I inclose herewith in copy in translation, I forwarded immediately to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"The Laz delegates have just received a telegram stating that the Russians advance towards Livanah, Adjara, and Tsolooksoo. They ask whether, having begged for British protection, they will be allowed to be crushed by Russia, and request me to telegraph again that that the moment to act, if anything is to be done on their behalf by word or deed, has arrived, and to let them have an early reply. They add, verbally, that whatever the answer may be they will fight and die under the British flag."

The Russians, who were at three hours' distance from Artwin, the residence of the Kaïmakam of Livanah, having been reinforced by three battalions and two mountain guns, have advanced and occupied a commanding position on the mountain of Tolkoom, on the right bank of the Tsuruk River.

Ten Russian battalions have marched from Poskow to the frontier of the Upper Adjara.

The army on the Tsolooksoo, which is said to have been reinforced lately, has been concentrated to Hossooban, where there were hitherto only Russian outposts.

All these movements on the part of the Russians leave no doubt as to their intention of attacking Batoum simultaneously on three different sides, if the place is not handed over to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Laz Deputies to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.) *Trebizond, April* $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

ACCORDING to a telegram which we have received to-day from all the inhabitants of Batoum, the Russians, with a view to advance into the district of Livanah, have occupied, with three battalions and two mountain-guns, the mountain called Tolkoom; they are getting ready to attack on the side of Tsorook-Soo, and make preparations at Poskow to invade also the Upper Adjara. The populations expect that in a day or two Batoum will be attacked on all sides. Having already stated that we would fight and die under the British flag, and being on the point of being crushed, we request that you will acquaint, by telegraph, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the state of things, and beg that we may be informed, as early as possible, whether we are to be protected by word or deed.

(Follow 13 signatures.)

No. 325.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transcribe, for your Lordship's information, copy of a telegram which I have forwarded this afternoon to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

"Yesterday Russians occupied Artwin, which was undefended. Three Turkish battalions are at Livanah, whereto Russians are said to march from Erzeroum. Dervish Pasha was expected to start for Sikindjir. Laz Pashas and delegates depart for Batoum."

I learn from foreigners arrived from Erzeroum that there are very few Russian troops in that town, they having been marched in the direction of Batoum.

The Russians have not yet encountered the Turkish troops in the district of Livanah, but, as they consist of only three battalions, it is expected that they will fall back before the superior forces of the enemy.

We have no further information respecting the movements of the Russians on the frontier of the Adjara; however, the Laz delegates say that they have not the slightest apprehension on that side and on that of Livanah.

To reach Batoum there are passes so difficult that a few men can prevent a very large force from ever crossing them.

If the report of the departure of Dervish Pasha for the camp at Sikindjir, with artillery and the remainder of the Turkish troops, is true, it may be presumed that he intends to oppose the advance of the Russians.

It is rumoured here that Dervish Pasha is in rebellion against the Porte, and acting on his own responsibility; but the fact is that he has no orders from the Turkish War Office to give up Batoum.

The Laz Pashas and delegates, who are about to depart in order to take part in the defence of their country, do not know what the final result of Dervish Pasha's move may be, but they feel confident that in all cases the Turkish troops will side with them; but if, contrary to their expectations, the regulars not belonging to the Lazistan act against them, the Laz consider that their position will become very critical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 326.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 52. Political.)

Trebizond, May 1, 1878.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having informed me, in answer to my telegram of the 27th ultimo to him, relating to the Laz delegates, that he could add nothing to what he stated in a telegram referred to in my despatch to your Lordship No. 46 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of my reply on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 326.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, May 1, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency's telegram of the 29th ultimo reached me to-day, half-an-hour after the Laz delegates had called upon me to take leave before they departed for Batoum.

Ali Pasha departs with them, but Osman Pasha remains here.

In the absence of other instructions, I repeated to them, and in so doing I am glad to have acted in conformity with your Excellency's views, that they must not consider themselves to be under British protection, and that, if they decide to oppose the Russians from taking possession of their country, they must not display the British flag.

They promised to follow my advice, but expressed at the same time the strong hope that Great Britain will assist them in some way or other.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 327.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 49. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 27, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 47 of the 16th instant, I had the honour to give your Lordship a translation of a telegram sent by the authorities at Rethymo to his Excellency the Vali of Crete, in which they accused the insurgents of having mutilated, in an abominable manner, the bodies of nine Mussulmans who had been cruelly put to death by them, and I stated that Mr. Trifilli, the Consular Agent in that town, made no mention of mutilation.

The authorities seemed to think that Mr. Trifilli wished to throw a veil over these scandalous proceedings, so in order to clear the matter up I went down to Rethymo myself in Her Majesty's ship "Bittern." I found that the telegram had been greatly exaggerated, but that a most savagely murderous assault had been made on the Mussulmans, some of whom seem to have been stabbed after death, there cannot be a doubt, but it does not so clearly appear that their bodies had been wantonly mutilated. I have the honour to inclose a translation of the report of the doctor who attended the inquest, side by side with which I reproduce the translation of the telegram relating to the same affair which was furnished me by the authorities, so that the two accounts may be readily compared. It seems to have been owing to the fact that one of the victims had the end of his nose cut off, and another part of his ear, that the charge of mutilation was brought against the assailants, who were accused of having cut off the heads, ears, noses, and hands of all nine. The telegram stated that the murdered men were unarmed, of which there is no proof, and which is a most unlikely supposition, as all the Mussulmans are in the habit of carrying arms, and they would never have ventured so far within the enemies' lines unarmed. The telegram further leaves it to be inferred that the Consular Agents had been invited to inspect the bodies, but that is not true, as the

Mutesariff himself confessed. Mr. Trifilli, desiring to satisfy himself as to the state of the bodies, sent to ask permission to inspect them, which was granted, but his cavas, who is an Albanian Mussulman, dissuaded him from going, as the populace were highly incensed against the Christians, and with commendable prudence he stayed at home.

The Mutesariff, who made a very favourable impression on me by the directness of his answers to the questions I put him, frankly confessed that the telegram, which had not been dispatched by him, but by the Christian Mouavin, conveyed the first hasty rumours that had been borne to town, before there was time to make a careful examination. It further turned out that the savage character of the attack was due to the circumstance that it was an act of reprisal for the murder committed a fortnight before on the seven Christians near Koxara, whose relations had thus sought to avenge themselves.

The mutual relations of the two communities have been greatly embittered by these last two lamentable events, and the Christians of Rethymo, who are but 2,000 in the midst of 10,000 Moslems, live in perpetual fear of their lives, which the evident weakness of the local Government tends to aggravate. The latest example of this weakness, or partiality, was furnished a few days before my visit by an unwarrantable act of interference attributed to the new Commander-in-chief, Salih Pasha. His Excellency had gone down to Rethymo to assist in repulsing the attack of the insurgents reported in my last despatch, and while there a number of his fellow-countrymen (for Salih Pasha, though of Circassian descent, was born and bred in Crete) had interceded with him to release from confinement all the Mussulman prisoners, most of whom had been condemned, or were awaiting their trial, for various murders and acts of violence committed against the Christians. His Excellency at once released them all, to the number of twenty or more, and brought back four of them to Canea, one of whom, named Alipaki, the most notorious cut-throat of Rethymo, has since been often seen about his person. The Mutesariff of Rethymo told me that he entirely disapproved this arbitrary proceeding of the General, which he was powerless to prevent, and this morning Costaki Pasha informed me that he had felt himself bound to comment severely to Salih Pasha on the fault he had committed, and that he had insisted that Alipaki and his comrades in crime must at once be brought to trial. Just after this conversation had taken place Salih Pasha himself called upon me, and on referring to the release of the malefactors I was surprised to find that his Excellency repudiated all responsibility for that act, declaring that the Mutesariff of Rethymo was the author of it. When I told him that the Vali no less than myself and the whole population of Rethymo had supposed him responsible for the deed, he replied that Costaki Pasha had indeed seen fit to reproach him for it, but that he had received his remarks in silence, not deigning to deny what was a pure calumny. In acting thus his Excellency seems to me to have done himself an injustice, as if he was anxious to prove his innocence to me, it was surely his interest to clear himself before the Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 327.

Translation of the Medical Report on the Condition of the Bodies of the Nine Mussulmans killed by the Christians.

1. *Mustafa Cositaki.*—The throat cut, two wounds with a knife on the right hand, a bullet in the right leg which broke it, the end of the nose cut off.

2. *Mehaet Bektashi.*—The throat cut, both eyes carried away by a bullet, the right hand gashed, the foot broken by a bullet.

3. *Ibrahim Fournaraki.*—The throat cut, two bullets in the breast, and the cheek laid open by a blow from a knife.

Translation of the Telegram sent by the Authorities at Rethymo to the Vali of Crete.

"Sixteen unarmed Mussulmans who had wandered outside the lines separating the government from the insurgent territory near Rethymo, for the purpose of gathering wild herbs, were attacked by the insurgents, who cut off the heads, noses, ears, and hands of nine of these unfortunates, wounded one with bullets, and kept one alive as a prisoner.

The dead bodies of the mutilated persons having been carried into Rethymo, about

4. *Ismail Bektashi.*—The throat cut and three bullets in the head.

5. *Mehmet Rezinbocki.*—Three bullets in abdomen, the ear slightly gashed.

6. *Hassan Mesirli.*—Two bullets in the right shoulder and two in the head.

7. *Salih Caridaki.*—Two bullets in the breast, the extremity of the right ear cut off.

8. *Zamali Cavaliaki.*—A bullet in the breast, one in the head, and one in the leg.

9. *Mehmet Cavaliaki.*—Two bullets in the head, one in the right breast, and a wound with a knife in the head.

300 Mussulmans assembled at the Konak of the Mutesariff insisting that the bodies be examined in the presence of the Consular Agents and of the members of the local Courts of Law.

An examination having been made, they were afterwards buried, and the crowd dispersed, energetic measures having been taken to preserve order.

Three of the sixteen Mussulmans attacked have disappeared, and nobody knows what has become of them.

No. 328.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 50. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 20, 1878.

My Lord,

DURING the past week several slight skirmishes have taken place between the Turkish troops and the insurgents, but they have, happily, been productive of little bloodshed. Before daylight on the 20th instant, a battalion of soldiers surprised the enemy in the positions which they occupied near the summit of a range of hills some 1,500 feet high, which skirt the plain of Canea on the south.

The insurgents were in the habit of issuing from the ravines in these hills and firing upon the villages at their base, which are only three miles from the town. Having been dislodged thence, the range now forms a clear line of demarcation between the two territories. The capture of these positions was the signal for the inhabitants of the villages lying beyond the hills to abandon them. Salih Pasha had given strict orders that these villages should not be occupied, and he posted detachments at certain places to prevent the irregular troops from entering them. This being a new feature in the local warfare as hitherto conducted, I record it with satisfaction, as the area of devastation has thus not been extended by this latest advance of the Turkish troops, and it may be presumed that the irregulars will be less keen to accompany the soldiers in their expeditions when they find there is no plundering to do. It is to be hoped that the inhabitants will return to their homes when they see that no one molests them.

I understood Salih Pasha to say that his latest instructions did not permit him to carry hostilities into the enemy's country, and that he intended to remain on the defensive. When the insurgents become aware of this intention, I have no doubt that the Provisional Government will do its utmost to prevent them making unprovoked attacks, and in this endeavour they will be warmly seconded by the great majority of the peasantry, who are weary of the war, and desire nothing so ardently as an honourable termination of the struggle. The Government, on its part, is more and more embarrassed by the presence in the garrison towns of a crowd of Mussulman refugees, who are reduced to destitution, and who are prepared to compromise their differences with the Christians for the sake of returning to their homes in the interior. With such a disposition apparent on both sides some compromise might be arrived at, were it not for the opposition of certain of the Chiefs, who are under an engagement to insist on the annexation of the island to Greece as the price of the aid in arms and money which they have received from thence.

The authorities have procured some alleviation of the sufferings of the Mussulman refugees by distributing among them, from the military stores, 750 quarters of wheat in Canea, and 125 quarters in Rethymo, while half the latter amount has been allotted to the Christians of Canea. I have not yet heard what provision has been made to relieve the destitution in Candia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 329.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 21.)

Galatz, May 7, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN at Sulina on the 3rd instant, I received through Mr. Sanderson your Lordship's communication to the effect that the Turkish Government was anxiously inquiring whether a portion, at least, of the Debt of the Commission could not be repaid, so as to provide for the pressing wants of the refugees.

I at once telegraphed to your Lordship from Sulina as follows:—

"Do not consider it practicable to make the advances required. Will telegraph again on returning from Sulina to Galatz, and after consulting my colleagues."

Yesterday, on my arriving at Galatz, we held a meeting on the subject, and I subsequently sent, through Mr. Sanderson, a telegram to your Lordship, to the following effect:—

"My opinion is that, considering the state of our finances, it is impossible for us to make advances to the Porte.

"My colleagues of the Executive Committee desire, before giving an opinion, to consult their Governments, or, at least, to submit the question to the general meeting summoned for the 14th."

Owing to the late war the Commission has lost at least 1,000,000 fr. All our ready money is absolutely necessary for current expenses, and would only carry us through a certain number of months should the receipts from the navigation be again cut off by another war; whilst in that case, and should the war be of any duration, as stated in my letter to your Lordship No. 20 of the 24th instant, recourse must be had to the invested portion of the Reserve Fund.

It could even happen that this fund might also become exhausted, and that we should have to appeal to the Guaranteeing Powers for the reimbursement of the Bischoffsheim and Goldschmidt Loan, and, perhaps, even for the means of meeting other pressing necessities, such as the payment of the salaries of the Commission officials, &c.

My colleagues are therefore perfectly well aware that it is impossible for us to make advances of money to the Porte at the present moment.

It was, however, evident that their refusal to immediately declare themselves in this sense arose from the usual jealousy of such a negotiation being carried on through the medium of the British Government and Commissioner, and they at once began to make difficulties by saying that they could give no opinion on the subject, and that it must be referred to their Governments, and to the general meeting.

I myself was the first to declare that we could not pay away any money without the sanction of a general meeting, but I also added that that was not the real question at issue, which was simply whether we had the money to disburse or not, that the Executive Committee was fully competent to declare itself on this point, and that the adjournment of the question until the general meeting would have the effect of giving rise to false hopes on the part of the Porte as to the result.

I now regret having consulted my colleagues on the subject, but I was induced to do so because I was desirous that your Lordship should know that my opinion was shared by them, indeed Baron Haan had already expressed himself in this sense when I mentioned to him the first request of the Porte, but I also thought it right that they should be officially connected with the transaction, and did not calculate upon their raising, in this case, the usual difficulties.

Owing to the turn now given to the affair, I have been compelled to give notice of bringing the request of the Porte before the general meeting, when I can foresee no other result than a refusal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner on Danube.

No. 330.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 22.)
Galatz, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 2nd ultimo, Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" left Sulina for Constantinople, for the purpose of obtaining provisions, and she returned to the Danube on the 28th ultimo.

On the 2nd instant, I arrived at Sulina for the purpose of conferring with Commander Musgrave as to the instructions he had received relative to his return, and it became apparent that it was owing to the recommendations contained in my letter No. 9 of 20th February last to the Earl of Derby.

The circumstances of the case are now, however, entirely altered.

The officials of the Commission at Sulina no longer require the moral support of an English man-of-war, inasmuch as they and the Russian authorities are on the best understanding with each other.

On the other hand, the presence of an English gun vessel may cause the Russians to suspect her of exercising a kind of surveillance over their proceedings at Sulina,* and may thus disturb the harmony which now prevails there, and it is also, at the present juncture, manifestly more convenient for the Admiral to have the ship more within reach.

Under these circumstances, I addressed, on the 3rd instant, a letter to Commander Musgrave, a copy of which is inclosed, requesting him to leave the Danube as soon as convenient.

The "Cockatrice" left accordingly on the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Colonel Siborne to Commander Musgrave.

Sulina, May 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, as far as the Danube Commission is concerned, the presence of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" in the river is considered, under existing circumstances, to be unnecessary.

It is, moreover, in some other respects, extremely undesirable, and I therefore have to request you, if consistent with any other duties which may have been intrusted to you, to leave the Danube as soon as convenient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE.

No. 331.

Consul Annesley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 17. Consular.)
Hamburgh, May 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Vice-Consul Kruse at Kiel has informed me that the steamer "Holsatia," of Kiel, has been chartered for a cargo of war material, and has left that port ostensibly for Königsberg. The Vice-Consul, however, believes her to be bound to a Russian port, and that part of her cargo consists of torpedoes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE ANNESLEY.

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* In a telegram of May 12, Consul Sanderson reports Russians to have begun to construct batteries at Sulina and Toultcha.

No. 332.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 13.)

(Secret.)
Admiralty, May 11, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter of the 26th ultimo, from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, containing remarks as to the effect the withdrawal of the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora would have upon the Turkish troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 332.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"*Agincourt,*" *Gallipoli, April* 26, 1878.

Sir,

THE copy of my letter to the Admiralty of the 24th instant, reporting fighting between the Russians and Mussulman refugees near Hazkioi, transmitted herewith for your information, contains the only intelligence worthy of mention that has reached me lately.

2. The day before yesterday I visited Osman Nouri Pasha at the lines, and I think it right to mention what he said to me in reference to the rumour which is current that there is a likelihood of the fleet leaving the Sea of Marmora. He expressed his strong conviction that should such a step be taken it would be deplored by every loyal Turk capable of reasoning for himself on "the situation," and its effect upon the morale of the Turkish army might be most disastrous for the interests of peace. He assured me of what I was personally aware before, viz., that the presence of Her Majesty's ships in the Sea of Marmora had done more to revive the sinking spirits of the troops than was generally believed; and that the fresh energy observable everywhere in the Turkish camp is unquestionably to be attributed to that circumstance.

3. For my own part I have no doubt, from frequent conversations I have had with the Civil Governor of this place, that had we not ascended the Dardanelles when we did, Gallipoli would have fallen.

4. The departure of the fleet this time, Osman Nouri Pasha thinks, would have the effect of greatly demoralizing his men; they believe now that England intends to see that justice is done them, and that they are not to be utterly crushed and humiliated and wiped out as a nation; but when they see the ships depart, incapable as they are of impartial reasoning, they will think that we have assuredly deserted them, and it is only natural to suppose that they will not believe in our kind offices again. And I confess that, to a great extent, I join in Osman Nouri Pasha's fears.

5. Moreover, as the Civil Governor says, the middle and lower classes of Turks would in no way be reassured by the withdrawal of the Russians from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, for they look upon that step as one that must be forced upon them if the insurrection in Thrace assumes any larger proportions, and they know the forts in the Bosphorus are now safe.

6. I do not report the arrivals and sailings of Her Majesty's ships at and from this anchorage, as the information is usually communicated to you at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

No. 333.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 13.)

Admiralty, May 11, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing copy of a Convention concluded between the Director-General of the Ottoman Telegraphs and the Agent of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and stating that the Porte is ready to ratify the Telegraph Convention with the Eastern Telegraph Company, for direct communication

with Europe viâ Tenedos and Scio, if they will agree to exclude from it the line between Tenedos and Volo, and some other conditions, including a monopoly of Indian messages, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that my Lords concur in the views expressed by the Marquis of Salisbury, that Her Majesty's Government have no direct interest in the concession of a line between Tenedos and Volo to the Eastern Telegraph Company; but it is of importance that the direct communication between Constantinople, Tenedos, Syria and Crete with Alexandria, Malta, and this country, should be worked by European clerks, under the direction of the Company.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 334.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 460. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1878.

REUTER'S Agent has, I believe, telegraphed that Sadic Pasha is preparing a new organic law to be extended to the whole Empire. This is true. Prime Minister has spoken to me on the subject, but has not yet given me any details, only assuring me that it will be framed in most liberal spirit.

No. 335.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 461. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY has been told by his Government by telegraph not to act on his instructions fully at present, but to hold back until he hears further. He commenced upon the subject of the occupation of Bosnia yesterday in an interview with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The following is the substance of a telegram on the subject sent by the Porte to its Representatives abroad for their personal information only:—

"Count Zichy recently made a proposal to the Porte for the cession of Bosnia to Austria on the grounds that the new limits assigned to Servia and Montenegro rendered its possession by Turkey impossible. In return for this sacrifice Austria promised to do all in her power to redress the limits assigned to Bulgaria. We have communicated to Count Zichy the reasons which prevented the favourable reception of this proposal."

Count Zichy has now made another proposal, namely, either that the Porte itself will provide the means for the immediate return of the refugees now in Austria whom the Austrians can no longer support; will undertake to rebuild their houses, churches, and schools, and to maintain them until next harvest; and will, moreover, enter into an engagement to secure their safety, giving the Austrian Government official guarantees to that effect. Or that the Austrian Government will send back refugees, either advancing the necessary funds or undertaking to support them itself; but in this case they must be accompanied by Austrian troops, who, in conjunction with Ottoman troops, will superintend the re-establishment of public tranquillity until question shall be definitively settled.

No. 336.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 462.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1878.

CONSUL-GENERAL FAWCETT is returned. His report will be sent home immediately. Its general conclusion is that Ogle met with his death among retreating insurgents on Friday, 29th ultimo, and that his fate was the result of his own imprudence. He was subsequently mutilated by Turkish soldiers. Rejib Pasha has concurred and signed the Report.

No. 337.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May* 12, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Danube Commissioner:—

"Russian Commander has applied to the Commissioners for the payment to his Government of the 500,000 fr. stipulated for in the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano. I consider this to be in consequence of the Turkish demand for the partial repayment of our debt. As already stated we are not bound to pay off this debt (before ?) 1883. The question will be brought before general meeting.

"Russians are beginning to construct batteries at Sulina and Toultchia."

No. 338.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 12, 1878.

SITUATION continues critical here. Prince Charles has left to review army in Lesser Wallachia, though Russian Agent tried to dissuade His Highness from absenting himself. This Government has protested afresh of what Russia is doing in the Principality, with special mention of intention admitted by her to erect new defensive batteries on the Danube, evidently against approach of a British squadron.

Following strictly secret.

Have seen Roumanian Prime Minister twice; he expresses alarm at the possibility of an armed collision with the Russian forces now in this country, and did not conceal his great desire for English support, going so far as to mention immediate want of 10,000 carbines for their cavalry, and he intimated how much they should like to get these from England.

I received all these confidential overtures with the greatest reserve, merely saying that from the little I knew of the country I should like first to ascertain how far such views could be depended on as being those of the Prince, of the other Ministers, &c., before transmitting them as deserving to be relied upon to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 339.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 12, 1878.

ROUMANIAN Government have obtained consent of Chambers yesterday to the prolongation of most-favoured-nation clause for three months more, for goods imported from countries with which Commercial Treaties have not been yet concluded. This gives us time to negotiate with greater advantage, and I have announced to them that I am authorized by Her Majesty's Government to do so, and shall write more fully by messenger leaving to-morrow.

No. 340.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13, 6 P.M.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May* 13, 1878, 4 P.M.

COUNT CORTI heard the day before yesterday from Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that Count Zichy had demanded cession of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and intimated that in case of refusal Austria would "passer outre." At the same time he received a telegram from Count Robilant reporting he had been told by Baron Calice that there was no present intention of occupying these provinces. Count Corti considers views from Constantinople more probable.

No. 341.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram No. 450 of the 10th instant, express to the Porte gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have learned acceptance by them of propositions for the pacification of Thessaly.

No. 342.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU may go to Cettigné as suggested in your telegram of yesterday and endeavour to ascertain the meaning of the military preparations in Montenegro.

No. 343.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 607.)

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 543, Secret, of the 28th ultimo, in which you recount what passed at your interview with the Sultan on the previous day; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the observations addressed by your Excellency to His Majesty on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 344.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 608.)

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE read your Excellency's despatch No. 545 of the 28th ultimo, in which are explained the special measures which the Diplomatic Body at Constantinople collectively, acting upon the recommendations of the Consuls, considered to be urgently called for, in order to avert the danger of an epidemic, resulting from the sanitary condition of the capital and the pressure of a large number of Mussulman refugees from the Turkish provinces now occupied by the Russians.

In reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having called a meeting of your colleagues, as doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in Count Zichy's absence, at the British Embassy, and that they concur in the resolutions which were then passed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 345.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 609.)

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 287 of the 26th February last, and to your telegram No. 271 of the same day, and to your despatch No. 500 of the 16th ultimo, I transmit, for your information, a copy of a further letter from the Temple Union, inquiring whether any report has been received at the Foreign Office relative to the alleged hanging of Poles by the Russian army in Turkey.

I have now to request that your Excellency will be good enough to let me know whether any information has reached you in corroboration of such a statement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 346.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 9.)

Foreign Office, May 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 12th instant, and have had under my consideration your suggestion that you should go to Cettigné, with a view to obtain accurate information respecting the military preparations which it is reported are being made in Montenegro; and I have to inform you that I approve of your going to Cettigné for this purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 347.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 14.)

(Confidentielle.)

Constantinople, le 11 *Avril*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, à titre Confidentiel, un travail concernant les limites assignées par l'Acte des Préliminaires de Paix à la nouvelle Principauté Bulgare.

Il suffira à votre Excellence de jeter un coup d'œil sur les tableaux indiquant les chiffres des populations, pour remarquer que les habitants Bulgares des localités englobées dans la Principauté, abstraction faite de ceux des districts situés dans l'intérieur, se trouvent, par rapport aux autres races, en grande minorité.

Je prie votre Excellence de garder ce travail pour sa propre information, en attendant que je lui indique l'usage qu'elle devra à en faire.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 347.

Memorandum.

(Confidentielle.)

L'ARTICLE premier du Protocole signé à Andrinople le $\frac{14}{27}$ Janvier porte que les limites de la Principauté de Bulgarie "seront déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare sans pouvoir être moindre toutefois que celles indiquées par la Conférence de Constantinople."

Pour mettre à exécution cette disposition du Protocol d'Andrinople, l'on aurait dû, lors de la négociation des Préliminaires de Paix, procéder de la manière suivante.

Le tracé de la Conférence de Constantinople aurait été pris pour base de l'étendue du territoire de la Principauté; puis l'on aurait cherché si, en dehors et sur les confins de ce tracé, il n'existait pas de districts qui, en raison de la nationalité Bulgare de la majorité de la population, devaient être annexés à la Principauté.

Cette méthode n'a pas été suivie par les Plénipotentiaires Russes, qui ont présenté une carte de la Bulgarie sans établir l'existence d'une majorité Bulgare dans les localités comprises dans le territoire de la Principauté. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont essayé de faire écarter ce mode de procéder, dont ils ont signalé l'irrégularité, au double point de vue du respect des stipulations du Protocole d'Andrinople et de la réalité des faits. Ils ont contesté que la population Bulgare fût en majorité dans la plupart des localités arbitrairement comprises dans le territoire de la Principauté en dehors du tracé de la Conférence de Constantinople. Mais les Plénipotentiaires Russes ont maintenu leur prétention dans toute son étendue, et ont persisté à considérer comme pays Bulgare les districts ajoutés au territoire de la Principauté en dehors du tracé de la Conférence, affirmant, d'ailleurs, que, si l'on avait dû procéder suivant la règle établie dans le Protocole d'Andrinople, c'est-à-dire si l'on avait annexé à la Principauté tous les cazas où la population Bulgare est en majorité, la Bulgarie autonome se serait étendue jusqu'aux portes de Constantinople. Cette discussion, en quelque sorte sans issue, puisque les affirmations de part et d'autre n'étaient appuyés d'aucun document ethnographique digne de foi, s'est terminée par un compromis consistant à investir la Commission Russo-Turque chargé de la délimitation définitive, d'introduire des "modifications au tracé général en tenant compte du principe

de la nationalité de la majorité des habitants des confins conformément aux Bases de la Paix, ainsi que des nécessités topographiques et des intérêts pratiques de circulation pour les populations locales."

Cette rédaction autorise la Commission à changer les limites de la Principauté, c'est-à-dire à en retrancher ou à y ajouter telle partie de territoire où l'enquête viendrait à établir qu'il y a eu erreur sur la nationalité de la majorité des habitants. Il est vrai que cette faculté est littéralement limitée "aux confins" de la Principauté, ce qui semblerait interdire à la Commission des modifications territoriales d'une certaine étendue; mais cette restriction est plus apparente que réelle; car si après une première rectification qui aurait eu pour effet de rejeter hors de la Principauté un certain nombre de cazas limitrophes, il est constaté que sur les nouveaux confins se rencontrent des cazas où la population non-Bulgare soit en majorité, il est impossible que cette constatation ne commande pas logiquement une nouvelle rectification, qui devra être poussée jusqu'au point où se rencontreront des territoires véritablement Bulgares, c'est-à-dire peuplés en majorité d'habitants appartenant à cette race.

Cette manière de procéder est tellement conforme au principe qui, d'après les déclarations officielles de la Russie, a présidé à la constitution de la Principauté de Bulgarie, qu'elle devrait être observée dans le cas même où elle aurait pour effet d'entamer les limites proposées par la Conférence de Constantinople. En effet, il ne faut pas oublier qu'à la Conférence il ne s'agissait pas d'ériger une Principauté autonome tributaire, mais seulement d'appliquer à cette partie de la Roumélie un système de décentralisation bien éloigné d'une autonomie politique, et qu'il était, dès lors, à peu près indifférent d'y comprendre des localités où l'élément Bulgare fût à peine représenté; c'est pour cela que les Plénipotentiaires Européens ne s'attachèrent pas à vérifier si tout le pays que l'on entendait doter de cette organisation administrative était réellement un pays Bulgare par ses habitants, tandis qu'ils se seraient révoltés à la seule idée d'introduire sans constatation préalable dans une Principauté indépendante, dite de Bulgarie, des cazas tout entiers presque exclusivement peuplés d'habitants Musulmans, Grecs, ou autres non Bulgares.

Les considérations qui précèdent suffisent pour faire ressortir l'utilité et l'importance de la recherche de la composition des populations qui occupent le territoire compris dans le tracé général fixé par l'Article VI des Préliminaires de Paix.

Cette constatation doit être faite au moyen de deux procédés différents se contrôlant l'un l'autre, savoir: l'enquête locale contradictoire et la production de documents de statistique pouvant faire autorité aux yeux de toutes les parties intéressées. L'enquête locale étant naturellement réservée à la Commission Russo-Turque chargée de la délimitation définitive de la Principauté, la Sublime Porte s'est exclusivement préoccupée de rechercher des données statistiques propres à jeter quelque lumière sur la nationalité des populations appelées à faire partie de la Principauté Bulgare.

Bien que les publications relatives à la Turquie d'Europe, dues aux travaux des écrivains et statisticiens Russes, aient dû paraître inspirées par un sentiment politique exclusif, on a cru pouvoir y puiser des éléments d'informations d'autant plus probants qu'ils ne peuvent être suspects aux yeux du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie. C'est ainsi que l'on a trouvé, dans l'ouvrage récemment publié par M. Téplow sur la Bulgarie, la Thrace et la Macédoine, des notions très précises sur les habitants de ces différentes provinces. On en a extrait une statistique se rapportant à la composition de la population des principaux districts dont a été formée la Principauté de Bulgarie, et les tableaux qui suivent en donnent un aperçu aussi exact que possible et dont les résultats ne seront certainement pas démentis par les enquêtes locales qui pourront être faites ultérieurement.

La première colonne porte le nom des cazas, ayant en tête le chef-lieu du vilayet ou du sandjak.

La deuxième colonne indique le nombre total des habitants des deux sexes de chaque caza, sans distinction de race, nombre emprunté à l'ouvrage de M. Téplow.

La troisième colonne donne le nombre des habitants Bulgares de chaque caza. Ce nombre a été établi sur celui des habitants Bulgares tel qu'il a été fourni, d'après M. Téplow, par les registres de l'Exarchat Bulgare, dont les relevés ne sauraient être suspects de partialité en faveur de l'élément étranger. La seule rectification que l'on ait fait subir à ce mode de supputation a consisté à évaluer à cinq au lieu de six le nombre des habitants de chaque maison Bulgare. La raison impérieuse de cette rectification est que le nombre des habitants par maison non-Bulgare est évalué à cinq dans la même statistique puisée aux même sources, et que non-seulement il est inadmissible qu'une maison Bulgare contienne plus d'habitants qu'une maison Musulmane ou Grecque, mais encore qu'il est avéré, d'après les rapports les plus désintéressés et l'aveu de tous ceux

qui ont étudié le pays, qu'en général et *à priori* les habitations de ceux-ci sont mieux construites, plus vastes et plus peuplées que celles des Bulgares.

La quatrième colonne porte le nombre des habitants non-Bulgares, c'est-à-dire, Musulmans, Grecs, Israélites, &c.

La cinquième colonne donne la proportion de la supériorité numérique de chacun des deux éléments sur l'autre par rapport à l'unité.

Cazas.	Chiffre de la Population Totale, d'après le Livre de Téplow.	Nombre des Habitants Bulgares calculé à raison de Cinq Habitants par Maison, suivant les Registres de l'Exarchat Bulgare.	Nombre des Habitants Non-Bulgares.	Proportion par Rapport à 1.	
				En Faveur des Bulgares.	En Faveur des Non-Bulgares.
Roustchouk	160,000	35,500	124,500	..	3·5
Choumla	57,330	15,000	42,330	..	2·8
Rasgrad	74,246	23,000	51,246	..	2·2
Eski-Djouma	16,525	2,500	14,025	..	5·6
Yeni-Bazar	16,035	3,525	12,510	..	3·5
Silistrie	65,052	28,500	36,552	..	1·3
Tutrakan	18,400	8,000	10,400	..	1·3
Sistowa	33,400	20,000	13,400	1·8	..
Nicopoli	52,261	25,000	27,261	..	1·08
Plevna	62,100	40,000	22,100	2·5	..
Totaux	555,349	201,025	354,324	..	1·6
Widdin	51,000	35,000	16,000	1·8	..
Lom-Palanka	57,500	32,500	24,000	1·3	..
Aillé	47,500	32,000	15,500	2·1	..
Belgradjik	25,000	22,500	2,500	10·1	..
Berkofcha	70,100	50,000	20,100	2·5	..
Vratcha	70,200	40,000	30,200	1·3	..
Rahova	56,500	50,000	20,500	2·7	..
Totaux	378,100	263,000	131,800	1·9	..
Tirnowa	126,500	80,000	46,500	1·7	..
Loftcha	70,800	37,800	33,000	1·1	..
Selvi	47,000	40,000	7,000	5·7	..
Gubrowa	35,400	30,000	5,400	6·5	..
Osman-Bazar	20,800	1,600	19,200	..	12·5
Totaux	300,500	188,500	112,000	1·6	..
Toultcha	55,000	12,500	42,500	..	3·30
Ismilan	8,700	6,000	2,700	2·10	..
Baba-Dagh	53,100	14,000	39,100	..	2·7
Matchin	27,500	7,500	20,000	..	2·6
Kustendjé	29,900	750	22,586	..	29·6
Khersova	32,300	..	32,300	..	..
Medjidié	30,000	250	29,750	..	119·0
Totaux	229,500	41,750	188,950	..	4·5
Varna	24,000	10,500	13,500	..	1·3
Provadi	43,200	11,500	31,700	..	2·8
Hasardjik	27,500	7,000	20,500	..	2·8
Baltchik	15,400	7,500	5,400	..	1·2
Mangalia					
Totaux	110,100	36,000	74,100	..	..
Sofia	140,700	70,000	70,700	..	1·01
Dubnitcha	36,200	25,000	11,200	2·2	..
Orkhanié	64,100	50,000	14,100	3·5	..
Ichtiman	88,000	50,000	38,000	1·3	..
Kustendil	68,000	45,000	23,000	1·9	..
Samakow	18,500	12,500	6,000	2·01	..
Izladi	50,000	30,000	20,000	1·5	..
Radomir	15,500	15,000	500	1·3	..
Djouma					
Totaux	480,500	297,500	183,000	1·6	..

Cazas.	Chiffre de la Population Totale, d'après le Livre de Tèplow.	Nombre des Habitants Bulgares calculé à raison de Cinq Habitants par Maison, suivant les Registres de l'Exarchat Bulgare.	Nombre des Habitants Non-Bulgares.	Proportion par Rapport à 1.	
				En Faveur des Bulgares.	En Faveur des Non-Bulgares.
Nisch	61,800	65,000	16,800	3·9	..
Ghaskeui	96,800	60,000	36,800	1·6	..
Ouschi	90,100	56,000	41,100	1·3	..
Leskofetcha	90,400	67,500	28,800	2·4	..
Lukup	35,400	11,000	24,400	..	2·1
Kourchoumli	25,700	25,000	700	35·5	..
Ivanbol					
Totaux	431,000	283,500	148,100	1·9	..
Uskup	55,600	20,050	35,450	..	1·7
Komanova	73,000	15,000	58,000	..	3·8
Tetis	46,000	19,000	27,000	..	1·4
Radovitza	13,200	4,800	9,100	..	1·2
Ekri-Palanka	50,300	12,500	37,800	..	2·2
Kotchana	25,300	12,500	13,150	..	1·1
Karatova	23,300	8,500	13,900	..	1·6
Kotchana	30,500	2,500	22,500	..	3·6
Totaux	306,600	99,850	206,850	..	2·09
Islimia	71,400	27,500	44,900	..	1·6
Carin-Abad	75,800	6,500	19,300	..	2·9
Yamboli	50,600	11,000	19,600	..	1·8
Yéni-Zaligra	46,100	20,000	26,100	..	1·3
Aïdos	23,500	5,500	20,000	..	3·6
Messouri					
Abyotou	82,400	30,000	57,500	..	1·9
Bourgas					
Totaux	286,000	100,500	186,400	..	1·8
Philippopoli	345,800	150,000	195,800	..	1·3
Tatar-Bazardjik ..	130,600	60,000	70,600	..	1·8
Khaskeui	142,000	56,000	86,000	..	..
Eski-Zaghra	94,000	50,000	44,000	1·1	1·7
Kézanlik	62,000	30,000	32,000	..	1·06
Tchirpan	62,000	30,000	32,000	..	1·8
Aghi-Tchélébi	34,600	12,500	22,500	..	..
Sultan-Yéri	30,300	..	36,300	..	..
Totaux	946,600	382,500	564,600	..	1·4
Andrinople	175,600	49,000	126,600	..	2·5
Kizil-Agatch	19,600	5,700	13,900	..	2·4
Démotica	88,000	20,000	68,000	..	3·4
Ouzoun-Koupra	50,400	13,500	36,900	..	2·7
Havara	12,700	2,800	9,900	..	2·8
Baba-Eski	9,500	2,800	6,700	..	2·3
Kirk-Kilisse	32,100	12,000	20,100	..	1·6
Lule-Bourgas	21,600	6,600	15,000	..	2·4
Mustafa-Pacha	46,200	11,500	34,700	..	3·1
Totaux	455,700	124,100	331,300	..	2·7
Monastir	153,200	50,000	103,200	..	2·1
Prilipé	102,300	30,000	72,300	..	2·4
Florina	45,000	27,000	18,000	1·5	..
Ighri-Boutchuk	50,100	..	50,100	..	..
Servi	16,200	..	16,200	..	..
Okhri-Préséré	77,300	50,000	27,300	1·8	1·8
Kirtchowa	35,000	10,350	24,650	..	1·4
Totaux	479,200	167,350	312,750	..	1·7

Cazas.	Chiffre de la Population Totale, d'après le Livre de Tèplow.	Nombre des Habitants Bulgares calculé à raison de Cinq Habitants par Maison, suivant les Registres de l'Exarchat Bulgare.	Nombre des Habitants Non-Bulgares.	Proportion par Rapport à 1.	
				En Faveur des Bulgares.	En Faveur des Non-Bulgares.
Goritcha	..	..	50,500	..	..
Kestoria	..	..	115,300	..	..
Naslidgé	..	..	27,100	..	..
Colonia	..	..	11,000	..	..
Istorovda	..	..	26,900	..	..
Totaux	..	..	231,100	..	..
Salonique	48,000	5,000	43,000	..	8·6
Kara-Kara	94,300	40,000	54,300	..	1·3
Voudina					
Yénidgé-Vardar ..	77,400	30,000	47,400	..	1·5
Roukouch	31,700	7,500	24,200	..	3·4
Toiran	56,100	25,100	31,000	..	1·2
Istroumitcha	37,500	..	37,500	..	..
Kezundéré	8,400	..	8,400	..	..
Imrour	21,600	10,000	11,600	..	1·1
Tékoutch	52,600	35,000	7,600	2·65	..
Voles					
Totaux	427,600	152,600	275,000	..	1·8
Serrès	164,700	50,000	114,700	..	2·2
Zihné	19,000	6,000	13,000	..	2·1
Nevrokop	64,000	15,000	49,000	..	3·2
Razlogh	78,500	50,000	28,500	1·8	..
Mélink					
Péritch	43,000	15,000	28,000	..	1·8
Démir Hissar					
Totaux	369,200	136,000	233,200	..	1·7
Demir	17,000	5,500	10,500	..	6·2
Yénidjé	70,600	20,000	50,600	..	2·5
Cavalla					
Dori-déré					
Totaux	117,600	26,500	91,100	..	4·5
Gallipoli	25,500	6,600	18,900	..	2·8
Karadjik	40,500	6,800	33,700	..	4·9
Orta-Charkeui	47,100	15,800	31,300	..	2·97
Kéchan	13,500	7,500	5,200	..	1·09
Gumurdjina	75,400	6,600	67,100	..	11·2
Totaux	202,200	41,200	166,900	..	3·8
Rédesto	51,100	10,500	40,600	..	3·8
Vizé	36,100	12,500	23,600	..	1·8
Tchorlou	14,500	4,000	10,500	..	2·6
Lulé-Bourgas	19,700	4,300	15,400	..	3·5
Khaïré-Boli	22,100	2,000	20,100	..	10·1
Malkara	29,500	6,800	22,700	..	3·4
Totaux	173,300	40,100	133,200	..	3·6

De ces tableaux il ressort :—

1. Que dans les arrondissements de Widdin, Tirnova, Nisch, et Sofia, la population Bulgare est en majorité dans une proportion qui varie de 1·60 à 2 pour 1.

2. Que dans tous les autres arrondissements de Roustchouk, Toultcha, Varna, Uskup, Islimia, Philippopoli, Andrinople, Monastir, Salonique, Serrès, Drama, Gallipoli, et Rodosto l'élément non Bulgare, c'est-à-dire Musulman, Grec, Israélite ou autre, l'emporte sur l'élément Bulgare dans une proportion qui varie de 1·40 à 4·70 pour 1.

3. Que dans un certain nombre de cazas situés sur les confins méridionaux du tracé de la nouvelle Principauté, tels que Goritza, Castoria, Naslidjé, Colonia, Istaronda, &c., l'élément Bulgare fait complètement défaut.

4. Que, dans tous les autres cazas, formant les confins de la nouvelle Principauté du côté de l'est, du sud et du sud-ouest, on compte au minimum trois habitants non Bulgares contre un habitant Bulgare.

5. Que le nombre des habitants des cazas qui font l'objet des Tableaux ci-dessus se décompose ainsi qu'il suit :—

	No.
Non-Bulgares	3,913,353
Bulgares	2,582,393
Différence en faveur des non-Bulgares	1,330,959

Ces chiffres, puisés, il faut le répéter, à des sources qui ne peuvent être suspectes aux yeux du Gouvernement Russe, recevront une confirmation définitive lors de l'enquête contradictoire que la Commission de délimitation devra faire sur les lieux pour accomplir son mandat, tel qu'il est déterminé à l'Article VI des Préliminaires de Paix. Ils offrent l'occasion et imposent l'obligation de remanier loyalement la carte de la Bulgarie et de réparer une erreur aussi préjudiciable aux intérêts des populations de la Roumélie qu'à ceux de la Sublime Porte.

No. 348.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 522.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 507 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of an extract from the "Helsingfors Dagblat" of the 7th instant, which I have received from Mr. Consul Campbell, giving the resolution of the Abo Chamber of Commerce on the Moscow project for equipping cruizers in the event of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 348.

Extract from the "Helsingfors Dagblat" of May 7, 1878.

(Translation.)

Chamber of Commerce in Abo relative to the Privateering System.

THE Chamber of Commerce in Abo cannot but see in the resolution passed by "the Moscow Society for promoting Russian Maritime Commerce for the equipment of cruizers," any other object than a determination to return to the privateering system. The Chamber had trusted that the solemn Declaration of the Powers made in 1856 relative to the law of the high seas in time of war definitely determined that privateering should be abolished, and that that decision could not be annulled by any one of the contracting parties, under any assumed name, for the purpose of re-establishing such a system of warfare. The Chamber entertained the firm conviction that the change thus effected in the law of the high seas would be a protection to private property during war.

Resolution of the Chamber.

"The Chamber is of opinion that the decision come to by the Moscow Society is objectionable as not being based on just and legitimate principles, and calculated to recall to life the deplorably lawless state of things which existed previous to the Declaration made in 1856."

No. 349.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hozier to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 14.)

(Confidential.) *Lloyd's, May* 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a confidential communication which has been received to-day from Lloyd's Agent at New York.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. HOZIER.

Inclosure in No. 349.

Mr. Mackie to Lieutenant-Colonel Hozier.

(Confidential.) 15, *Broadway, New York, May* 3, 1878.

Dear Sir,

I AM advised privately and confidentially that a vessel was anchored off New Brighton, Staten Island, and during the night loaded with arms and ammunition. The report as it comes to me comes from trustworthy parties, but I find them rather reticent as to details, and while they may have information than I think, I believe that their knowledge comes from mere hearsay.

I think, however, that suitable inquiry should be made so as to elicit facts; this will cause some trouble and expense.

Yours truly,
(Signed) SIMON F. MACKIE.

No. 350.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 464.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Consul at Scutari has sent to his Government information as to proceedings of Prince of Montenegro, similar to that contained in Consul Green's telegrams of 10th and 11th instant.

Count Zichy has been instructed to tell the Porte that in consequence of this the Austrian Government will at once take measures to strengthen fortifications of Cattaro. Count Zichy appears to consider conduct of Prince of Montenegro as an indication of his intention to attempt a strong diversion in favour of Russia, threatening Austria.

No. 351.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 465.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PASHA at Batoum telegraphs that Russian troops advancing towards that place in the district of Adjira, were resisted by the inhabitants, and compelled to retreat. Orders have been sent to Pasha not to [group unintelligible] Batoum.

No. 352.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 466.) *Constantinople, May* 14, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

ACCORDING to information received from Sulina and Toulcha Russians are fortifying both places, steamers having arrived latterly on 7th and 8th with guns and trenching tools.

They are also collecting large quantities of stone, apparently with the intention of blockading river.

By police order no boats now allowed to leave Toulcha.

Russian soldiers are working on road between Matchin and Podbachi opposite Ibraila.

No. 353.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 467.) *Constantinople, May* 14, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs sent orders yesterday to the Pasha of Janina for the liberation of insurgents made prisoners in the late insurrection. Those who are Greek subjects to be sent back to Greece.

No. 354.

Mr. Fawcett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

Pera, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) I REPORTED fully through Mr. Layard on my mission to Volo. My draft report, if received from Athens, should not be considered complete.

No. 355.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

Odessa, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) TWO thousand five hundred troops left to-day for Constantinople or Burgas; at least 20,000 have been sent to Turkey hence during last month, and about 6,000 have returned.

No. 356.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

Scutari, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) M. DUBY having failed in his alleged mission to obtain free navigation of Boyana, has been ordered to Montenegro immediately.

Presence is urgently required there.

Sent to Embassy.

No. 357.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

Scutari, May 13, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) MONTENEGRINS are collecting a large number of boats at Rieka, and the Pasha expects a descent near Helm.

Russians are distributing money to the Herzegovine refugees in Montenegro, on the plea that arrangements have been made to [? for] return home.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 358.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Aitcridge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, inquiring, on behalf of the Temple Union, whether any report has yet been received as to the alleged hanging of Poles by the Russian army in Turkey.

In reply I am to state to you that no report on this subject appears yet to have reached the Foreign Office, but that further steps will be taken to ascertain the truth of this story, and that when any information on the subject has been received a further communication shall be addressed to you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 359.

Mr. Lister to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from the War Office containing the substance of certain information furnished to that Department by this Office, as received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, respecting a reported shipment of rifles from Geneva to Genoa on Russian account, I am directed by Lord Salisbury to request that you will state to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India that Sir A. Paget has since reported that the British Consul at Genoa has since telegraphed that he cannot discover that the rifles had yet been shipped there, but that rifles were positively daily expected from Geneva by Genoese merchants, of which he would receive private information.

The "Movimento" newspaper of the 2nd instant contained the names of the American vessels said to be chartered by Russia for Egypt, but no such vessels were known to the American Consul.

Further information on this subject was promised, which, upon its receipt, shall be communicated to your Department.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 360.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 30. Political.) *Scutari, April* 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I was able three days ago to proceed to the port of San Giovanni di Medua, and there meet Commander Fitzgerald, who was prosecuting one of the periodical visits of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" along this coast.

Captain Fitzgerald informed me that, in compliance with his instructions, he was about to extend his cruise as far as Antivari, and he inquired whether I thought the Turkish authorities would view his doing so unfavourably.

I replied that it was possible his visit to Antivari might give rise to misconceptions, not only on the part of the Turks, but also of the Montenegrins. I was of opinion that an appearance at Dulcigno and Antivari of one of Her Majesty's vessels might be made with advantage, but that it ought to be preceded by explanations here to the Turkish authorities, and also by formal instructions from his superior officer to the Commander of the vessel carrying out the service.

I explained that the British Government had up to this day refrained from any decided step tending to recognize the existence of Montenegro as an independent State, and that one of Her Majesty's ships appearing at Dulcigno or Antivari without any strictly defined object, might be viewed by the Montenegrins as having come with the

purpose of spying their proceedings in their newly acquired positions. On the other hand, if the Commander of the vessel opened friendly intercourse with the Montenegrin authorities, his conduct might hereafter be sought to bind the British Government to an acknowledgment of Montenegrin possessions on the sea coast.

But, Prince Nicholas having invariably shown the utmost courtesy to those of Her Majesty's Consular Officers who have occasionally had to be in communication with His Highness, and especially to Mr. Monson and me during recent events, and having lately acted with the greatest consideration on my representation with regard to the cargoes of flour and rice of British protected subjects captured on board two Dulcignio vessels (see Political, No. 28 of 8th March, 1878), I thought that it would be a gracious act if one of Her Majesty's ships could visit Dulcigno and Antivari, and her Commander be authorized to express to such Montenegrin authorities as he might might meet there, the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt of the attention recently paid by them for the rights of British property.

I informed Captain Fitzgerald that I would report the foregoing to your Lordship, and he, therefore, kindly decided to postpone his visit until sufficient time had elapsed for further instructions to reach him.

Should my suggestion be adopted with regard to the above, I have no doubt that I could easily allay any possible feeling of jealousy on the part of the Turkish authorities, for they will quickly understand that acknowledgments are due for all acts of consideration towards Her Majesty's Government.

A time may also not be far distant when your Lordship may deem it advisable for more direct official intercourse to be opened with Montenegro, and then the officer who may be charged to commence it will reap the benefits of steps which cannot but afford satisfaction to Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 361.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 10. Political.) *Scutari, May 3, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the gradual knowledge obtained in these localities of the Treaty of San Stefano is beginning to urge the Mahommedans into preparing to resist any attempt to give effect to the terms concerning them.

In the districts of Goussinié, Plava, Berani, Gramichi, and most of the eastern slopes of the North Albanian Mountains, a league has been entered into between the Mahommedans, binding themselves collectively and individually to resist until death all attempts coming either from abroad or from the Supreme Government to change the present state of their territory.

Steps are being taken by these populations to place themselves in accord with the Albanians further south, near Trisrond, Prishtine, Vandi, Dibra, Ochrida, and even as far as Monastir; and, it is asserted, that these Mahommedans have decided to attempt the massacre of all Christian males, old and young, who claim a Bulgarian origin, if the Porte or the Russians make the slightest move indicating that effect is to be given to the formation, to its fullest extent, of the Bulgaria delineated in the San Stefano Treaty.

In many districts the Christian natives are already in great alarm, and exposed to considerable danger from the excited state of the Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 362.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, May 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch marked No. 18 of the 30th ultimo, from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, reporting certain insurrectionary movements on the Dalmatian frontier.

I do not think that too much importance should be attributed to these movements, there being no fear, as I have frequently stated, of the insurrection again assuming serious dimensions. As long as the future of these provinces is veiled in uncertainty, complete tranquillity cannot be expected. Petty political agitators still find a field for their labours—hundreds of individuals have no longer any means of existence but brigandage—and the action of the Turkish authorities hardly tends to induce those who have taken part, either directly or indirectly, in the insurrection, to place confidence in the Porte, and to resume their former occupations.

In Bosnia, although the insurrection can scarcely now be said to exist, there are still small bands in many parts of the country of so-called insurgents, but who would be more aptly styled brigands, which are sufficient to keep up a sense of uneasiness and insecurity, and to render certain roads unsafe. The high road to Brood is even said to be infested, and the Austrian Consular courier no longer ventures to travel by night.

I am averse, however, to any active military measures being taken against these comparatively insignificant bands, as any trifling successes that might be obtained would be more than counterbalanced by the misery and injury that would be caused to harmless and innocent persons. Tranquillity will naturally follow in the steps of a reformed administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 362.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Mostar, April 30, 1878.

Sir,

AFFAIRS are generally quiet here, but there have lately been signs on the Dalmatian frontier of renewed action among the insurrectionary bands.

The Caié Mucic, who for the last year and more has been quietly ruling the territory in Popori Polje, occupied by the Christian refugees, has been to Cettigné, and, according to the Turkish authorities, received their instructions to hold himself prepared for active operations.

There are some 9,000 souls in these villages of Popori Polje, and the Moslem properties have not received any vent since the outbreak of the insurrection. The taxes are collected and spent by Mucic. A force of 400 men is continually under arms.

Up to the present Mucic has not made any attempt to extend his authority. If cattle be stolen from the Turks he restores them; but he allows no Turk to enter his territory. His people have free intercourse with Austria, and draw from Ragusa all necessaries not produced in their own country.

The Mutessarif tells me that on the 23rd instant messages were sent to the inhabitants of the frontier near Sinbuchi that an insurgent band was about to enter that district, and unless the peasants were ready to join their houses would be burnt.

The Christian peasants near Sinbuchi are mostly Latins, and the monks of Duare Convent immediately gave information of this rumour to the Turkish authorities.

The Mutessarif communicated with Bosna-Serai, and has been told that the Mutessarif of Travnik has been ordered to concert measures with the Herzegovinian authorities for protection of the frontier.

The Austrians were also informed, and the Consul, M. Strauss, told me yesterday that General Rodic has already sent gendarmes and troops to watch the frontier.

It does not seem very clear whence the band is to come. According to one rumour, it numbers some 400 foreign sympathizers in the Bosnian insurrection;

according to another, and, I think, more probable version, the band is to come from the insurgents, who, under Babic, occupy the Grahovo-Polje, on the Austrian frontier north of Knin. This band is said to have sent a detachment lately towards Duvno, between Bosnia and Herzegovina, near Livno; but the officer of zaptiehs of that district informed the Mutessarif on the 25th that he had searched the country without finding traces of such bands.

This, however, proves nothing beyond showing that the Turks are not likely to take further precautions in that direction.

A battalion of infantry has been sent to Sjubuchi, and if the Austrians watch their side, the insurgents will do little in that neighbourhood.

From the notice given of the movement, it appears more like a wish to disturb the country than to inflict any serious damage.

The general opinion here seems to be that it has been done with a view of keeping the Bosnian question before Europe.

A camp is being formed at Blajai, within six miles of Mostar. It is intended to assemble there 5 battalions and 2½ mountain-batteries. The camp at Tasovcic will be broken up.

Meat rations have been issued to the troops within the last few days, but the sickness still continues very great.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 363.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 15. Political.) *Ragusa, May 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

AN announcement having been made by the English as well as the foreign press, to the effect that the Catholic Bishop of Antivari had been beaten and put in chains by the Montenegrins, on account of his fidelity to the Porte, I at once endeavoured to ascertain whether there was any truth in the above report; as I thought it so little probable, knowing the Prince's character, and his pretentions to civilization, that such an act of barbarism should have been permitted during the present critical state of affairs.

My French collegue, who is a Catholic, and whom I know to be well informed, assures me that the Bishop was in no way molested, and that the story was got up by those priests who, finding the Montenegrins less tolerant than the Turks, and their influence consequently on the decline, hoped thereby to draw attention to what they wish to be considered a grievance.

I am convinced that the rumours recently circulated, and since proved to be false, that the inhabitants of that part of Albania now occupied by the Montenegrins had expressed a wish to be annexed to Austria originated from the same source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 364.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 16. Political.) *Ragusa, May 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Austro-Hungarian 69th regiment left Ragusa this morning for Spalatro.

The motive assigned by the authorities here is that the inhabitants of Spalatro have requested that they might be supplied with a regiment for the sake of the music, and that having two here, one could be spared.

It is generally believed, however, that by the transfer of troops to the Bosnian frontier, the Austro-Hungarian Government have a more substantial object in view.

Rumours have lately been circulated that insurgent bands are again being formed in Bosnia, and I know for certain that as a precautionary measure, troops have been

sent to the frontier. It is more probable, therefore, that the 69th regiment is being transferred to Spalatro for the same purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 370.) *Vienna, May 9, 1878.*

My Lord,

REPORTS having been current of the intention of the Austrian Government to concentrate forces in Transylvania and at Cattaro, I inquired to-day at the Imperial Foreign Office whether there was any truth in them. I was assured that no preparations for the reception of troops have been made either in Transylvania or at Cattaro, and also that there is no intention of occupying Bosnia at present, or without the concurrence of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 366.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 376. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 293 of the 4th instant, which I have communicated to Count Andrassy, has given him the greatest satisfaction; he had, he said, often been at a loss to form a distinct opinion upon the policy of Her Majesty's Government, but your Lordship's language was so plain as to leave no doubt upon it, and he believed that an agreement such as was proposed could be come to between the two Governments. He could not say more than this till he had taken the Emperor's orders, and he would at once have a translation of the despatch made for His Majesty, who does not understand English, but his Excellency's general tone upon this occasion was far more satisfactory than it has ever yet been.

He said that the evident object of Russia was to prevent a common action of Great Britain and Austria by entangling them in separate negotiations, and she was in the right in attempting it, for separately neither of us could effect very much, while united we could obtain whatever we agreed upon.

He was so strongly impressed by this conviction that he had not hesitated to make me acquainted with the secret Memorandum he had just received from M. Novikoff, even though he was not certain whether, as reported, Her Majesty's Government were making proposals to St. Petersburgh through Count Schouvaloff of which he had not been informed. As the report, however, prevailed that they had made some propositions Count Andrassy felt obliged to ask me whether I was certain that Her Majesty's Government maintained the views expressed in your Lordship's despatch, which was of a date several days anterior to Count Schouvaloff's departure from London.

I said that I had no knowledge of any propositions having been made to the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh through Count Schouvaloff, but that there certainly could be none that were at variance with the views which have been expressed to the Austrian Government, with whom the Government of Her Majesty have always shown the greatest anxiety to come to a distinct agreement, and I could have no hesitation in assuring him that your Lordship adheres fully to the despatch I had just communicated. Had it been otherwise I should have been instructed by telegraph to withhold it.

I added that I considered it not impossible that in your conversations with Count Schouvaloff your Lordship might have expressed the views of Her Majesty's Government more fully in regard to Asia than had hitherto been done to the Austrian Government, who were less affected by that part of the question; but of this I had no knowledge, and put it forward as a mere conjecture. His Excellency seemed fully satisfied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 367.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 381.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 12, 1878.*

WHEN I called yesterday at the Imperial Foreign Office, I found that Count Beust had already reported that your Lordship had told him that Her Majesty's Government had not sent any definite proposition to St. Petersburgh by Count Schouvaloff, but had only communicated their views with regard to the frontier line of the Balkans, and the duration of the Russian occupation, which were already known to the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 368.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 15.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 9, 1878.*

M. TISZA has at last announced that he will not much longer delay the explanations upon the foreign policy of the country which he has been urged by the Opposition to give. He undoubtedly feels very strongly that the hesitation of the Government in satisfying public impatience is seriously injuring his position; and that it is imperative that something should be done to reassure even his own supporters, who cannot be expected to remain always contented with vague laudations of Count Andrassy's policy.

The Government has given it to be understood that there is no immediate intention of occupying Bosnia; and the Hungarians of all parties must of course approve this decision. They also announce a proximate concentration of troops in Transylvania, and this also is a measure which must strengthen their hands. But the Opposition are not inclined to believe in the sincerity of their intentions. On the contrary, they are persuaded that these military movements are but a device to disarm suspicion, and that the Administration has no serious idea of adopting a decidedly anti-Russian policy. They apprehend that Count Andrassy is continuing in his old line "of deceit," as they call it; and that Her Majesty's Government have no solid ground for counting upon an Austrian alliance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 369.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 15.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 10, 1878.*

PRINCE DEMETRIUS STOURDZA, who is here nominally upon business connected with completion of the Roumano-Hungarian railways, called upon me this morning, and explained that the principal object of his mission was to sound the Hungarian Government as to certain possible contingencies and actual necessities.

He finds M. Tisza more decided in his language than when he was here in April. He had pointed out to the Prime Minister that the Roumanian army had no intention of being forced over the frontier by the Russians without fighting; and expressed the hope that Hungary would not hesitate to support them.

M. Tisza, for the first time in his interviews with the Roumanian Agent, had admitted the possibility of the outbreak of hostilities; and while declaring that until war commenced Hungary could do nothing to compromise her neutrality, seems to have given Prince Stourdza to understand that in case of need she would come to the aid of Roumania.

Prince Charles' army is greatly deficient in horses and in munitions of war; and M. Stourdza pressed M. Tisza to afford facilities for supplies of both. The

Premier replied that at this moment Hungary was likely to want horses for herself, and that with a concentration of troops in Transylvania imminent, it would be impossible to accede to the request for military stores, but that as soon as the immediate national needs were satisfied, it might be feasible to supply the Roumanians with what they require.

In spite of this improvement in the tone of the Hungarian Premier, Prince Stourdza is somewhat apprehensive that an understanding exists with Russia by which the Roumanian army will be sacrificed.

The Prince is anxious that Her Majesty's Government should send some experienced officers of rank to advise with the Roumanian Generals. He says that in the event of war, the Roumanian contingent would be no despicable auxiliary to the army of Great Britain; but that its value would be much enhanced if the resources of the native staff were supplemented by the presence and advice of a few Englishmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 370.

Sir J. Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Chatham, May 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to remark upon Colonel Siborne's telegram of the 12th instant, a copy of which has been transmitted to me by your Lordship's directions, that the subject of the demand of the Russian Commissioner, reported by Colonel Siborne, has been treated in my despatch No. 4 of the 26th ultimo to your Lordship.

I therein had the honour to point out that such a demand would be made under Article XIII of the Treaty of San Stefano, and the grounds on which I thought it ought to be resisted.

The shape in which the demand has been made has the appearance of an attempt to snatch a judgment on a minor point of the Treaty, which involves the principle governing the far larger question of the vast indemnity claimed from Turkey.

Moreover, I have the honour to suggest that, if eventually the principle of the indemnity is conceded, and the European Powers consent to this portion of it being paid from the European funds of the Danube Commission, those funds should only be employed in conformity with the obligations contracted towards Turkey by the Commission, and that any such demand as that now made should be supported by a statement of the losses which it is intended to cover.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STOKES.

No. 371.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, May 14, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," reporting his return to Sulina and the state of affairs at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 371.

Commander Musgrave to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Cockatrice*," *Sulina, April* 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report my return to Sulina yesterday.

Affairs here are the same as on my departure. Torpedoes are on board the steam barges ready for being laid down, and booms are constructed for use in case of necessity. Surveys have also been made by Russian engineer officers with a view to erecting batteries; and I hear there is a large quantity of stone on the bank at Tultcha, for making a barrage, if required.

Numbers of Turkish prisoners are being sent down the river, both by the Russians and Roumanians, for conveyance to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARCHER MUSGRAVE.

No. 372.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 15.)

Admiralty, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts of a letter from Commander Fitzgerald to Vice-Admiral Hornby, reporting the proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" in visiting San Giovanni di Medua on the 26th April, and communicating with Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari.

2. It is requested that the inclosure to this letter may be returned, as it is sent in original.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 372.

Commander Fitzgerald to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"*Rapid*," *May* 6, 1878.

(Extract.)

2. ON the afternoon of the 26th April I anchored at the port of San Giovanni di Medua, and communicated by telegraph with Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari. On the 27th he came down to the port and met me there, though he would not come on board the "Rapid" on account of the swell. He informed me that for the present everything was quite quiet at Scutari, and that, as far as the line of demarcation was concerned, and any other disputed points, that the Montenegrins were masters of the situation. There were between twenty and thirty small craft, principally Turkish, moored in the inner harbour of San Giovanni, and a guard living under canvas, and consisting of about 150 Turkish troops, all Asiatics from Syria; the officers belonged to Damascus, and were personal friends of Mr. Kirby Green, and they informed him that these troops had been brought away from their homes under false pretences, they being told that they were going to defend Constantinople, and not to fight the Montenegrins, and Mr. Green was of opinion that, in case of a renewal of hostilities, they would not fight.

3. I informed Mr. Green that it was my intention to visit Antivari, but after conversing with him on the subject, I abandoned this intention in deference to his opinion, as it appeared doubtful how far Her Majesty's Government wished to recognize the Montenegrins, and as a wrong construction and undue significance might have been given to such a visit during the present unsettled state of affairs. I had the less hesitation in coming to this decision when I considered that at the time my "sailing orders" were written, including Antivari in my station, that port had not passed into the hands of the Montenegrins.

No. 373.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 114.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 14, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF begged me to inform you that publication of the appeal issued by Committee for the purchase of cruizers and inserted in the "Official Gazette," copy of which I send by post, was done without the knowledge of the Government, and they deplore it.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 131.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 14, 1878.

THE Committee of the Austrian Reichsrath has refused to accept the proposal of the Government respecting the 60,000,000 credit, till further explanations have been given of the intentions of the Government. The Delegations will meet on Saturday when the explanations of the Government will be given.

No. 375.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 132.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 15, 1878.

THE vote in the Austrian Reichsrath is not in the least likely to prevent Government from carrying their proposal about the 60,000,000 as soon as explanations have been given to the Delegations.

Before finally voting the money the opposition wish to be satisfied that an occupation of Bosnia will not take place under an agreement or understanding with Russia.

I have been only able to exchange a few words with Count Andrassy, but he tells me the Emperor takes the same view as himself of your Excellency's despatch of the 4th, and he hopes that an agreement may be come to between our two Governments.

No. 376.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 133.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 15, 1878.

IN the Reichsrath yesterday Prince Auersperg stated that the Government had never ceased to regard the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina as to be settled in any other way than one which will prevent the periodical recurrence of troubles. The Government has never intended to withdraw the settlement of the question from the jurisdiction of an European Congress or to effect an arrangement with the co-operation of another Power. All reports to the contrary are false. In the Hungarian Diet M. Tisza made yesterday analogous declarations. He said that the Government is hampered in its decisions by no alliance or engagement of any kind. The foreign policy of the Empire is the defence of Austro-Hungarian interests, peaceably, if possible; if not, by every means in its power, in conjunction with Europe, or alone if necessary. The Treaty of San Stefano contains many points not in accordance with these interests. Detailed explanations on these points cannot at this moment be given, but they affect the eastern portion of the Balkan Peninsula as much as the western, and all insinuations against the Government of a parallel or compensation policy are entirely groundless. M. Tisza thinks the best solution would be through a Congress, taking as its basis the Treaty of Paris. If the Congress be not possible, the view of the Government would be to act in concert with such Powers as were following the same objects, namely, the consideration of the Eastern question as a whole, and one not to be settled by a parallel action or a compensation policy. The Government is negotiating with the Porte for the return of the Bosnian refugees, and has no intention

of doing anything to provoke the remonstrances of Europe. M. Tisza concluded by saying that, in his opinion, it was necessary to take steps to secure the safety of the frontier, and especially to make the needful military preparations in the Transylvanian passes. The credit of 60,000,000 florins is wanted for the necessary precautions on the southern, south-eastern, and northern frontier. This is the single and sole object.

No. 377.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Paget's telegram of the 13th, respecting the demand for the cession of Bosnia, Count Corti's belief that, if the Porte refuses its consent, Austria will "passer outre," is quite contrary to the assurances I have received here and with what I believe probable.

No. 378.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 468.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 14, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Biliotti, dated yesterday:—

"Eight thousand Laz having concentrated in Upper Adjara, Russians retreated two days ago to Iroskois (*sic*). It is rumoured that they are about to evacuate also Livanah (*sic*), and that there are signs of similar intentions at Isoksow."

No. 379.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15, 6 P.M.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 15, 1878, 4·35 P.M.*

COUNT DE ROBILANT reports that relations between Austria and Russia have become lately much less good, the point of divergence being the cession of Antivari to Montenegro, which Austria opposes and Russia insists upon. Austrian Government seems somewhat apprehensive lest separate agreement should be established between England and Russia.

No. 380.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 15, 1878, 6·15 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 469 of to-day, I authorize you to propose an armistice to the Porte for the pacification of Crete, and to obtain a promise from them to settle the future form of Government in the island in concert with the other Powers.

No. 381.

Mr. Lister to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of Viscount Cranbrook, that a copy of your letter of the 6th instant has been sent to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt with instructions to make inquiries respecting the destination of the arms stated to have been purchased at Genoa by

Russian officers; and to communicate by telegraph to the Political Resident at Aden any particulars with which he may think it advisable he should be furnished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 382.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 569.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram in Turkish which has been sent to me by the inhabitants of Debré, in Northern Albania, who protest against the annexation of their country to the new Bulgarian Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Petition of Inhabitants of Debré against being included in Bulgaria.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 19/24 Avril, 1878.*

NOUS venons de voir dans le Traité de Paix, publié dans le No. 247 du journal le "Zeman," que Debré est compris dans la Bulgarie. Cette affaire a été cause d'une angoise générale. Débré n'a pas de point d'affinité avec le pays qu'on appelle la Bulgarie. Il appartient à l'Albanie. Il comprend plus de 220,000 Musulmans et 10,000 Chrétiens qui sont tous Albanais. Ainsi plutôt que de consentir à être incorporés, d'une manière contraire au droit des gens et à la suite de la volonté arbitraire d'autrui, à la Bulgarie, nous préférerions être tout-à-fait anéantis. C'est pourquoi dans le cas où la délimitation en question est vraie nous y protestons, et nous supplions que pour épargner l'effusion du sang qui est contraire à l'humanité et à la civilisation on prenne des mesures pour exclure notre pays de la Bulgarie, et qu'on le laisse sous la sujétion absolue du Gouvernement Ottoman, sous lequel nous avons vécu jusqu'à présent en parfaite tranquillité. Nous sollicitons les bons offices de votre Excellence pour faire savoir à votre Gouvernement ce qui précède.

No. 383.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 570.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report relating to Russian designs on Bulgaria, which I have recently received from a person who has occasionally sent me trustworthy information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 383.

Report.

DANS les circonstances actuelles je crois que tout ce que regarde les affaires de la Bulgarie pourra être intéressant pour vous, Monsieur; c'est pourquoi je prend la liberté de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit.

D'abord vous connaissez, Monsieur, le but poursuivi par le Gouvernement Russe, ce n'est point de doter la Bulgarie d'une existence nationale et d'une autonomie administrative réelles, mais de former une Bulgarie Russe. Elle parviendra incontestablement, ou mieux dire elle a déjà parvenu, à cet effet elle fait tous les efforts, en employant tous les moyens en son pouvoir. Elle ne s'arrêtera pas dans sa marche, malgré l'opinion et l'opposition de l'Europe, pour arriver au résultat des faits accomplis. Néanmoins, et malgré la grave situation de l'état actuelle, je ne crois pas me tromper, Monsieur, de dire que tout espoir

est perdu, si réellement des mesures et des moyens efficaces, prompts et énergiques soient prises par des Gouvernements s'intéressants à cet état et s'opposant à une telle politique. Les moyens pourront être discuté, et je n'en doute pas qu'on les trouvera bien fondé et d'obtenir un bon résultat en les mettant en pratique.

Vous connaissez déjà, Monsieur, l'arrivée d'une députation composée par plus de soixante personnes représentant la nation Bulgare de chaque ville et village. Elle porte au Grand Duc une adresse de remercîments et de reconnaissance de la part de toute la nation Bulgare pour l'avoir délivré, en lui donnant son autonomie. On priera le Grand Duc de la transmettre à Sa Majesté l'Empereur. La députation se compose des évêques, des prêtres, des moines et des laïques. Elle devait la présenter Vendredi passé, mais quelques députés n'étant pas encore arrivé on la présentera aujourd'hui, 22 du mois courant, à onze heures du matin. On ne sait pas si le Grand Duc l'enverra lui-même, ou il chargera la même députation de la porter à St. Pétersbourg, pour lui donner plus de solennité et d'importance, tant pour la personne de l'Empereur comme pour l'Europe. Cette pièce fut fabriqué à St. Pétersbourg, mais si je dois vous informer d'un fait beaucoup plus important, une personne (un Bulgare) bien renseigné, m'assure que la même députation a pour mission aussitôt retourner en Bulgarie, se formera en Assemblée Générale pour l'élection du Prince, qu'on hâtera son élection avant la réunion du Congrès (en cas qu'il aura lieu) et sans prendre en considération l'opposition qu'il pourra résulter de la part des Puissances Européennes, pour être un fait accompli, en un mot, faire une surprise. On m'assure que le Général Ignatieff courra beaucoup de chance d'être élu. Non seulement la Russie se fortifie dans les Balkans et dans toute la Bulgarie, mais elle a déjà envoyé 500,000 fusils destinés pour les Bulgares; déjà 200,000 sont distribués aux Bulgares qui se sont inscrits comme volontaires, et des officiers Russes sont chargés à les exercer au service militaire, tous individus de vingt à cinquante ans [devant ?] s'exercer au service militaire; tel est l'ucaz du Tzar. Le Gouvernement Russe vient d'instituer en Bulgarie une propagande exceptionelle qu'il y a pour mission unique la propagation parmi les Bulgares des idées Russes, en un mot, faire la Bulgarie une autre Russie. Le personnel de cette propagande est choisi parmi les Bulgares, Russes et autres, tous des personnes actives, capables et instruits, sont bien payés, et on dispose des sommes considérables pour leurs missions.

Tous les gouverneurs et les employés en Bulgarie ont reçu l'ordre sévère du Gouvernement Russe de ne pas être en relation avec des étrangers, les Consuls, mais plus particulièrement avec les Consuls Anglais, afin de ne pas connaître ce qui se passe.

Jusqu'à l'arrivée du Prince Dandoucoff l'organisation de la Bulgarie c'est le Général-Lieutenant Dimitri Gabritovich Arsunzin, actuellement à San Stefano, qui dirigé les affaires Bulgares. Il a fait imprimer en langue Russe toutes les pièces officielles qui serviront pour l'expédition des affaires en Bulgarie, il s'efforce de persuader les Bulgares que cette mesure est provisoire, puisque les Gouverneurs et beaucoup d'employés sont Russes et ils ne connaissent pas le Bulgare. Mais au fond c'est une excuse, d'après mes informations les Bulgares avaient traduit les codes Turcs en Bulgare, mais n'étant pas appuyés par le Gouvernement Ottoman selon qu'il lui avait promis de les imprimer, il vient d'être invité par le Général Arsunzin de les imprimer, puisqu'ils se serviront provisoirement, la population étant plus ou moins en connaissance de ces lois.

Provisoirement la ville de Philippopoli sera la capitale future de la Bulgarie, c'est là que l'Assemblée Générale sera réunie bientôt, comme je viens de la dire plus haut, c'est-à-dire immédiatement après le retour de la députation actuellement ici qui a porté l'adresse, on m'assure qu'elle sera réélu en Assemblée.

Il y a pourtant une circonstance qui est d'une grande importance dans l'état actuelle de la Bulgarie, de laquelle on peut tirer grand profit, si on voudra la prendre en considération. Il est vrai que si les Bulgares sont très contents de ce que la Russie a fait pour la nation et leur liberté, mais il n'est pas moins vrai aussi que les hommes sérieux parmi les Bulgares sont dans une grande inquiétude pour l'avenir et dans la crainte que leur nationalité ne manquera pas d'être perdue et engloutie par la Russie, quisqu'elle agira en pleine liberté et sans obstacle dans ce but, sans que la nation Bulgare puisse lui opposer la moindre résistance, et dans ce cas le seul moyen d'éviter cette malheur à la nation serait qu'une autre Puissance la couvre de sa protection, suivant une politique opposée à la Russie et ayant aussi l'appui de la nation. Une longue discussion à cet effet est indispensable à arrêter les moyens.

Péra, le 22 *Avril*, 1878.

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* A moins que?

No. 384.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 571.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 4, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 20th ultimo, requesting me to inform you whether General Salih Pasha and Medjib Bey, recently sent to Crete, are the same two men mentioned by Consul Reade, in his despatch of the 21st March, as being responsible for the "Djuma massacre," I have at length ascertained that the Medjib Pasha now in Crete is not the Medjib Bey formerly Kaïmakam of Djuma. With regard to Salih Pasha, as I have already stated to your Lordship, he is the same who commanded at Djuma; but I have pointed out to your Lordship that Mr. Reade admits that he was entirely misinformed as to the occurrences at that place, and that he has since (see his despatch No. 20 of the 23rd March, inclosed in my No. 416) written in high terms of that officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 385.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 572.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a Turkish letter addressed to me, and sealed, by ten persons who are stated to be delegates of the Mussulman refugees from Roumelia now in Constantinople. They describe, in this document, the nature of the rising of the Mussulman population taking place in the mountainous districts to the south of Adrianople and Philippopolis, and the causes that have led to it. They further express a hope that the British Government will not be indifferent to this attempt on the part of the Mussulmans of Roumelia to resist the cruelties and oppression to which they have been and are being exposed from the Russians and Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 385.

Memorial.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

LES humbles soussignés exposent ce qui suit :—

Ce soulèvement des montagnards, la légitimé duquel ne saurait être revoquée en doute, a mis en relief deux vérités qui étaient cachées à l'Europe. La première c'est que dans le but bien arrêté d'anihiler toute autre race dans la Bulgarie qui va être constituée sous l'influence Russe, tant les Russes que les Bulgares ne mettront pas fin à leurs agressions, obligeant ainsi tous les Musulmans de recourir aux armes.

Il est donc nécessaire pour obvier à un tel état de choses de conserver le Traité de 1856. La seconde vérité c'est que les Musulmans ne sauraient d'un coup-soudain renoncer à leurs droits sacrés ni tolérer l'influence Russe et l'oppression Bulgare qui va s'ensuivre. Ils ont offert au monde le spectacle plein d'enseignement, à savoir que sans plus se référer aux autorités ils ne reculeront pas devant la nécessité de recourir aux armes, avec lesquelles ils sont familiarisés, pour défendre leur vie, leur honneur et leurs droits, et que la question de la Turquie Européenne ne saurait être réglée moyennant une ligne tirée et une carte dressée. En attendant on a des appréhensions par rapport à ce soulèvement légitime entrepris en défense de la vie et de l'honneur des Musulmans. Ces appréhensions sont basées sur les traitements iniques essuyés par tous ceux qui s'étaient soumis aux Russes. Il est vrai que ces défenseurs de nos droits occupent des positions très fortes et sont renommés pour leurs mœurs guerrières, mais s'ils restent sans assistance et que les Russes les attaquent avec des forces écrasantes, il est à craindre qu'ils succombent et qu'ils soient exposés aux traitements sauvages et iniques des Russes et des Bulgares réunis. Ce qui est exposé fera savoir à votre Excellence la raison du soulèvement et des mouvements des montagnards. Notre but n'est que d'exprimer l'espoir que le Gouvernement Anglais et la nation Anglaise ne verront pas avec un œil impassible les projets sinistres conçus contre ces

malheureux par les Russes et les Bulgares et qu'ils ne leur épargneront pas leur assistance charitable dans le soulèvement légitime qu'ils viennent d'entreprendre, nous allons maintenant donner à votre Excellence des informations exactes par rapport aux positions occupées actuellement par les montagnards en question et par rapport à leur état présent.

Ce sont des Carndjalis et des Pomacs, formant une population de 250,000 âmes en tout qui habitent la chaîne des hautes montagnes entre Démitoca et Gumuldjina, au sud-ouest de Philippopoli et d'Andrinople. Le chiffre ci-dessus fut augmenté par 150,000 autres habitants de Roumélie qui à l'entrée des Russes dans le pays ont dû chercher refuge dans les montagnes, effrayés des procédés arbitraires des armées Russes envers les Musulmans. Nous sommes en même temps informés qu'il y a aussi avec les montagnards des soldats de Souleiman Pacha qui avaient également cherché refuge chez eux avec armes et bagages.

Le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Avril*, 1878.

(Suivent dix sceaux.)

No. 380.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 573. Confidential.)

Therapia, May 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I received a visit to-day from Captain de Torey, the Military Attaché to the French Embassy, who is just returned from a journey of inspection in Greece. He was good enough to give me some interesting information as to its results. He states that he was favourably impressed with the rank and file of that part of the Greek army, about 25,000 men, which has been exercised and drilled during the last year. He says that the fighting materials appeared to him to be good, better than those he had observed in Roumania before the war. He did not speak so well of the officers, and described the Greek army as being greatly deficient in the commissariat department, and in all the necessary organization for service in the field.

Captain de Torey went as far as the Turkish frontiers to inquire into the facts connected with the invasion of Thessaly by armed bands from Greece. He denies those who are now in Thessaly have any right to the title of "insurgents." They consist, he says, of deserters from the Greek army (officers and men), of ex-brigands, and of a number of adventurers of all kinds, including Italians, Frenchmen and, he states, Englishmen. The Christian inhabitants of the province have not joined them, except a few who have done so from compulsion. They draw their supplies of arms and munitions and their provisions from Greece. M. de Torey is of opinion that if the Greek authorities loyally discharged their duty these supplies might be entirely cut off, and the bands would be unable to remain in Thessaly, but the Greek Government appears to be covertly conniving at their proceedings. He mentioned that one of the principal chiefs of these marauders, whose name has escaped me, was an officer who had deserted from the Greek army, and who had been in consequence publicly dismissed from it, whilst he had been secretly promised reinstatement and promotion on his return to Athens.

M. de Torey believes that it would be unfair upon the Turks to call upon them to recognize the bands from Greece as insurgents and belligerents, and to allow them, in the event of an arrangement for a suspension of hostilities, to occupy the positions they now hold, which are very favourable for obtaining supplies from Greece, and from which they can descend into the plains and plunder the villages. It is M. de Torey's impression that the Christians of Thessaly do not desire the annexation of the province to Greece. They say that if it were so annexed it would merely become a field for satisfying hungry politicians from Athens, who would not be an improvement upon Turkish Pashas and functionaries. What they require is, according to M. de Torey, good and equal government and their legitimate share in the administration.

Captain de Torey informed me that he had reported to his Government in the sense that he had spoken to me, and that he had freely expressed his opinion about the Greek invasion of Thessaly to Mr. Wyndham, whom he saw before leaving Athens.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 387.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 574.)

Therapia, May 5, 1878.

My Lord,

THE treatment of the Turkish prisoners by the Roumanian Government is contrasted with that experienced by them from the Russians, and has produced an impression upon the Turks very favourable to Roumania.

Whilst Russia is throwing every difficulty in the way of the return of her prisoners to Turkey, the Roumanians have promptly sent back those who were in their hands, and, I am informed, have not put forward any demand for their maintenance during their captivity. The Turkish officers speak warmly of the kindness they have received in Roumania, whilst it is asserted that the prisoners made by the Russians have been exposed to great hardships, if not to much cruelty. It appears certain that a very large number of them have died. The Roumanian Government has shown good policy, as well as humanity, in dealing as it has done with the Turkish prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 388.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 576.)

Therapia, May 5, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Greek Government and press accuse the Turkish troops of having destroyed numerous Christian villages in Thessaly. The Porte, on the other hand, states that the armed bands of adventurers from Greece, who call themselves insurgents, sacked and burnt in the early part of last month the following Mussulman villages:—Costavadia, Boccari, Evpa, and Varvarlo, in the "Nahie" of Dimoka; and Hacheni, Debaoglu, Karadja, Ali, Keborli, Omerler, Aslanlar, Adjemli, and Pacheli, in the district of Tchataldjá; and the mosque and several houses at Velchol, Tchiflik. Many other Mahommedan villages, and a large number of farms—amongst them those belonging to Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at Athens (a Greek)—have also been sacked and destroyed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 389.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 579.)

Therapia, May 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 463 of the 11th ultimo, requesting me to ask Consul Barker for any explanation that he may have to offer relative to the contradiction given by the Vali of Salonica of the information he had sent to me as to the dispatch of irregulars against a monastery in Mount Olympus, in which women and children had taken refuge, I have the honour to inclose copy of Mr. Barker's answer to me on this subject. Your Lordship will judge how far it is satisfactory. Mr. Barker, I regret to say, is rather in the habit of sending me reports of excesses and outrages alleged to have been committed by Turks on the Greeks and other Christians, which have subsequently proved unfounded or greatly exaggerated, without first taking the trouble to investigate the truth of them. I have had to point this out to him on more than one occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 389.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, April 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 20th instant, informing me that the Marquis of Salisbury requires me to say on what foundation I telegraphed to your Excellency that Bashi-Bazouks had been sent against a monastery where women and children had taken refuge, a statement contradicted by the Vali of Salonica.

The fact I telegraphed to your Excellency was so well ascertained, viz., that 500 Circassian "Bashis" had left Salonica on this errand, that my colleagues, the Italian Consul and the Austrian Consul-General, telegraphed at the same time (18th and 19th March) to their respective Ambassadors to the same effect.

But the Vali, hearing that we had all three telegraphed to Constantinople (for all telegraphic despatches are inspected by the Government officials), immediately telegraphed to Assaf Pasha, Commander of the troops at Mount Olympus, to countermand the order.

In my despatch to your Excellency of the 19th March last your Excellency will find the following paragraph:—

"I signified to the Governor-General that he would do well to telegraph immediately to Assaf Pasha that he must prevent any massacres. His Excellency replied that he had that moment done so, at the request of the Italian and Austrian Consuls, who had also heard this report."

Now, if there were any truth in the Vali's "denial" and declaration that my statement "was entirely without foundation," he could never have replied to my expostulation in the way he did, nor should I have penned that despatch on the 19th March to your Excellency; there would have been no reason for my doing so. If there had been no truth in the question of Bashi-Bazouks having been sent, the Vali would not have telegraphed to Assaf Pacha, the Commander of the troops, which he declared he did, and we know he did.

My experience of forty years in the Consular Service, and my relations with Turkish officials during this long period, has taught me that no reliance whatever can be placed on their most positive assurances nor their "denials" either. (And the Russians are just as bad.)

When I reported to the Secretary of State on the 3rd October, and to your Excellency on the 22nd September and 4th October last, that the Vali of Salonica we had then, Mousset Pasha, had levied irregular troops (4,000 Ghegha Albanians, the most ferocious of all races), and sent them into Thessaly, long before any insurrection there, purposely to pillage the Christian villages, and when they resisted to kill them, my statement and warning that an insurrection like that in Bosnia would be created (see my private letters to your Excellency of the 6th and 9th October), was strenuously "denied" by the Vali to the Porte, on your Excellency's remonstrances. But time has proved it was true. The insurrection has come about in spite of the "denial," and the Greek Government has protested against the lawless acts of the Ghegha Albanians in Thessaly, "as the cause of the insurrection," and it forms the exordium of the first proclamation by the insurgents.

In some cases we meet with great difficulty in aiming at the truth, on account of conflicting interests; but in this case there is no doubt whatever that the Dragoman of this Consulate and those of the Italian and Austrian Consuls were well informed, and we reported accordingly, as we were in duty bound to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. B. BARKER.

No. 390.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

[For Parliament.]

(No. 580.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter addressed to me by a certain Hafiz Mohammed, stating himself to be a delegate from the Mussulman inhabitants of the Caza

of Kirklissia in Roumelia, complaining of the cruelties to which they are subjected by the Russians and Bulgarians, and making an appeal to me for protection. The touching account given by these poor people of their sufferings seems to be confirmed by Vice-Consul Brophy's despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 390.

Hafiz Mohammed to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le 22 Avril, 1878.*

VOUS n'ignorez pas ce que souffre la population Musulmane en Roumélie de cette malheureuse guerre défensive, cependant je me permettrai de retracer à votre Excellence les faits les plus minimes de la manière cruelle et atroce avec laquelle se comporte les Russes et nos voisins les Bulgares envers la population Musulmane de notre Caza de Kirk-Kilissa, et je suis sûr que la conscience de votre Excellence en sera révoltée.

Dès l'entrée des Russes dans le Caza de Kirk-Kilissa le vol, l'assassinat et le viol sont devenus des faits journaliers, jusqu'à présent même les Russes et les Bulgares ont tout récemment encore pillé et saccagé les villages de Orikler Kechirlik, Ahmedli et Asel-Beuli, situé dans le susdit Caza de Kirk-Kilissé, et ont massacré impitoyablement nos femmes et nos enfants et emporté tous nos biens, et tous ceux qui voulant reprendre leur bétail se lamentaient ou essayaient d'attendrir par les pleurs les infames pilleurs étaient assommé à coup de crosse. Notamment Hassan Hodja, du village d'Akmeddjé, accompagné de son fils et de ses amis, espérant redevenir maître des bestiaux et autres effets enlevé par ces barbares, les suivirent, mais ils furent impunément mis à mort. En outre, ils ne cessent d'imprisonner, de maltraiter chaque deux jours la pauvre population Mahométane sous des prétextes futiles, et ceux qui ne peuvent payer des amendes injustes sont battus chaque soir ignominieusement sur la place, un chaîne ayant de fer au cou et au main.

Huit à dix Mahométans qui étaient allés moudre du blé au moulin, après avoir été dévalisés en chemin, ils ont été tués et blessés. Enfin pour terminer l'énumération de ces atrocités, la femme et la sœur de Cherif Aga, du village d'Ak Geuné, ont été mises à mort, après leur avoir fait endurer les peines les plus féroces.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence, dont la justice et l'équité sont universellement connues, de chercher un moyen pour nous sauver des griffes de ces infâmes, le plustôt possible, et de purger notre pays, qui le parcourent tous soirs en y répandant la mort, le viol et l'inceste de ces bandes sauvages, où nous n'avons pas la moindre sécurité de vie et de bien, attendant la mort à chaque moment. C'est en espérant que la bonté de cœur et l'humanité qui caractérisent votre Excellence ne resteront pas indifférent au sort de la pauvre population Musulmane de Kirk-Kilisa.

J'ai, &c.
L'Envoyé de la part de la Population du susdit Caza,
(Signé) HAFIS MOUHAMEDE.

No. 391.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 581. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 6, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA informed me to-day that the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, who had just been with him, had, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, made the following proposal to the Porte, that the Bosnian refugees now in Austrian territory, to the number of 240,000 souls, should immediately return to Bosnia; that they should be accompanied by an Austrian force, which would occupy the province until proper measures had been taken by the Porte for the security of their lives and property; that the Turkish Government should undertake to rebuild their villages, and to furnish them with the means of resuming their agricultural labours; that in the meanwhile the Porte should provide for their maintenance until they could support themselves, and that if the Porte had not the pecuniary means to do so, the Austro-Hungarian Government would be ready to help it to procure them.

Baron Herbert further stated that Count Zichy was expected back at the end of this week; that he would have full instructions for treating the matter with the Porte, and would be able to submit to it in detail the arrangement proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I asked Safvet Pasha whether he had returned any answer to the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affairs. He replied in the negative. He said that the question was one which would have to be submitted to the Sultan, and which required very grave consideration. The Porte might have been disposed to consent to a temporary occupation of Bosnia by Austria, were it not unfortunately profoundly suspicious of her designs, and did it not fear that if she once sent an army into the province, she would not be disposed to withdraw it again. Baron Herbert, he added, could not give him any explanation as to the number of troops that his Government desired to send into Bosnia, or as to the manner and time of the occupation. He should consequently defer giving any answer until Count Zichy had arrived and had afforded the Turkish Government full information on these subjects.

As far as I could judge from his Excellency's language, he seemed to be little inclined to entertain the Austrian proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 392.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 582.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 6, 1878.*

I SUBMITTED to the Porte a Memorandum of the substance of Vice-Consul Brophy's despatches (of which copies were forwarded to your Lordship) with respect to the sufferings of the Mahommedan fugitives in his district, and suggesting that steps should be taken without delay for their removal. I am informed by Dragoman Mavhitch that, in consequence of my representations, the Minister of Marine has sent for steamers to transport these poor people to Bartin and other ports in the Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 393.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 583.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication which I have received from Mr. Jacob, a British subject, with reference to the destruction of his stores of wood at Calicratia, in the Sea of Marmora, by the Russians under General Tomilefski last February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 393.

Mr. Jacob to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Franchini Khan, Galata, May 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I am the proprietor of a stone quarry situate near Calicratia, at Buyuk Tchekmedji, and in order to facilitate the loading of the stone into ships and lighters, I had made a contract with the inhabitants of Calicratia for the site belonging to them for the construction of a pier of considerable length, which was to be built of timber.

About two years ago I had bought part of the wood required from the British Embassy, and part I had got from different dealers.

This wood was composed of masts of different lengths, and of oak beams and planks, to the value of 20,000 fr., and was stored in a stone magazine near the sea-shore at Calicratia.

Owing to the slackness of business there the last two years the pier was not built, and consequently, on the arrival of the Russian troops, the timber which was in the store was burnt.

In the month of February the Russian troops, commanded by General Tomilefski, in their passage by Calicratia, being short of timber for fuel, broke open the store and burnt all the timber that had been stored therein. The inhabitants of Calicratia would vouch for the accuracy of my statement.

Humbly requesting your Excellency's consideration of this matter as to the steps which it might seem advisable to take for the purpose of recovering the loss I have sustained, I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD JACOB,
Civil Engineer and Architect.

No. 394.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

[For Parliament.]

(No. 584.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Dr. Stoker, who has recently been sent to Adrianople and Philippopoli, in the service of the "Compassionate Fund," to report upon the condition of the Mussulman fugitives in those towns. Your Lordship will be shocked by the account he gives of the cruel treatment of the Mahomedans by the Russians and Bulgarians. Nothing to be compared to it was experienced in the very worst period of Turkish rule.

As the war is at an end, and civil authority has been restored, there appears to me no excuse for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 394.

Dr. Stoker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, May 5, 1878.*

I LEFT Adrianople on Friday, the 27th April, to proceed to Philippopoli to pursue my inquiries about the refugees in that town.

I regret to state that the condition of the refugees in Philippopoli is much inferior to that of those in Adrianople. All told, they number about 2,000; for the most part they live in the ruins of the houses destroyed by the Bulgarians, but about 400 of them have been sent out into camp by the Russian authorities; the aspect of this camp is wretched and miserable in a degree. It is situated in a marsh about five minutes' walk from the outlet of the city; the poor people are actually living in a sea of mud; it is impossible for them to be dry, or in any way comfortable, night or day; and, to make matters worse, in each tent I found two or three cases of typhus.

These people have been sent out here by the Russian authorities to avoid the infection spreading in the town; but it seems to me that if they had been actuated by any feelings of charity, they would not have sent typhus patients to die in a marsh, when plenty of favourable sites for the camp might have been selected near the city. The refugees are supposed to receive half an oke of bread per diem for each adult; but as these rations are most irregularly distributed, they often go hungry.

I was informed that the men were employed by the Russian authorities in mending the roads, and that they were paid at the rate of 1 fr. per diem; that they are forced to work is quite true, but that they are paid for this labour is quite an invention. When this was represented to the Governor he explained that the intention was to pay them in a lump sum; but it is clear that this is false, as 10,000 to 11,000 of them have already been sent back to their villages without being paid. It was a great pleasure to turn from this scene of misery and wretchedness to the orphanage and hospital established by the local committee of the "Turkish Compassionate Fund," under the direction of our worthy Consul, Mr. Calvert. In this establishment are about 200 persons, who receive shelter and food; of these 100 are orphan children, who seem quite happy and contented in their

new home. A schoolmaster attends, who instructs them in reading and writing, &c., &c. The Committee would do well to send some clothes for the little ones, as they are badly off in that respect. The Chief of the Police (a Russian officer) visited the home, and, amongst other things, suggested the propriety of converting these children to Christianity, which proposal was, of course, indignantly refused. "Charity," said our Consul, "not proselytizing, is our object."

The Turks remaining in Philippopoli, after the entry of the Russians, have been barbarously treated by the Bulgarian inhabitants; up to the last few weeks abductions were of frequent occurrence; the perpetrators were in most cases the Bulgarian policemen, and the victims were handed over to the Russian officers for their own purposes. Our Consul complained of these disgraceful proceedings to the Commandant, and was thereupon challenged by a Russian Colonel to prove his charge or be punished; he proved his charge thus:—Two days after a woman came and complained that her daughter Nazly, aged fourteen, had been carried off by two Bulgarian policemen, accompanied by an officer, and was at present confined in a Bulgarian house; the Consul brought the woman before General Stalibin, who accompanied him to the house where the girl was confined; as a revenge for this, the girl's father was seized and punished severely on a false pretext; the same day the girl Nazly was found, six other young girls were restored to their friends, but were threatened with death if they complained.

I found no cases of small-pox amongst the refugees of Philippopolis, but a great deal of typhus exists, *i.e.*, about 10 per cent.

As I stated above, about 10,000 or 11,000 refugees have been already sent back to their homes; of these a good many have been obliged to return to Philippopoli, on account of the ill-treatment received by them at the hands of the Bulgarians, some being robbed immediately after leaving the city.

Nothing can be more pitiful than the condition of these poor people, forced to return to their villages only to find their homes ruined, without food, without oxen or implements, aye, almost without clothes, surrounded by people eager for their ruin and destruction; there is indeed but a sorry prospect before them. All these facts seem to me to point to but one conclusion, *i.e.*, that for the present at least it is not possible for the refugees at present in Constantinople, either with safety to life or property, to return to their former homes, if they be within the bound of "New Bulgaria." I inclose a list of the twenty-one Turkish villages burnt by the Bulgarians, and which was the cause of the present insurrection in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STOKER.

List of Villages burnt by Bulgarians.

1. Pantadjick.
2. Khorouglar.
3. Karamaolar.
4. Guetchekly.
5. Yussuteh-keui.
6. Kemmurdjy.
7. Gahovo.
8. Gouslaslelar.
9. Yeni-bazar.
10. Bounali.
11. Kalfalar.
12. Seidheyli.
13. Karanly.
14. Ormakeui.
15. Koumboular.
16. Kara-Tasla.
17. Sheremenler.
18. Mollah Mousarlar.
19. Tcheboukly.
20. Fyuazdjacks.
21. Yeni-Makhle.

No. 395.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 587.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, and Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Bourgas and Larnaca, reporting matters of interest to their respective districts, as well as a despatch to your Lordship from Mr. Consul Zohrab, which has reached me under flying seal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 395.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, May 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of your Excellency's ( ) to the Porte, Falat Bey was sent to replace Danish Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Shumla, whose gross oppression I had considered it my duty to bring under your Excellency's notice.

On my late visit to Shumla I was glad to find that Falat Bey had put everything to rights, and by the admirable measures he had taken, had greatly ameliorated the condition of the unfortunate refugees at Shumla, of whom there are now about 40,000 —the Circassians having been brought to Varna for Constantinople, and many of the Mussulmans having been induced to return to their homes.

I deeply regret, however, to have to add that in consequence of Falat Bey's having accompanied me to remove a number of refugees that were in some underground places, and had, therefore, been overlooked, he caught the typhus fever, which, unhappily, carried him off in three days.

Danish Effendi's accounts being in great disorder, and there being some extraordinary claims brought against him, he is still in Shumla, but I venture to add that it would be desirable to send from this some official, such as Falat Bey was, as Kaïmakam, otherwise the present Acting Governor may be influenced by Danish Effendi, and matters may, therefore, return to their former highly undesirable condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 395.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that about three weeks ago the Russians notified to Fazli Pasha, the Commander-in-chief at Shumla, that many of their troops south of the Balkans were about to cross over and retire on Hajji Ogla Bazardjik, the head-quarters of General Zimmermann.

The route selected was from the direction of Slimnia by Yenikeui, north of the Balkans, four hours distant from Pravady, and the road from which to Bazardjik passes through Pravady.

The troops consequently commenced their march, and at first went on straight through Pravady and Kozludja to Bazardjik, but I have now been informed that the Russians have, for the last ten days, kept a force at Pravady of about 2,000 men, and on Fazli Pasha's objecting to their remaining in such numbers in the centre of the quarter occupied by the Turks, he was told that it was merely to facilitate the passage of their troops through Pravady; but as Pravady is the most important station on the line of communication between Shumla and Varna, where the former place could be easily cut off from its only base of communication, and from whence a *coup de main* on Varna could also be easily attempted, the Governor-General, Ahmed Kaiserly Pasha, has despatched an adequate force with some guns from Varna, to watch the Russians and to be ready in case the latter attempted either of the measures I have mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 395.

Vice-Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, April 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the inquiries instituted by the Mustechar of Rhodes into matters connected with the administration of the Island of Cyprus, have resulted in the dismissal from their posts of the Governor, Ahmed Kiamil Pasha, and of the Muhussebeji, Hairi Effendi.

Both these officials will be sent to Rhodes for trial as soon as the preliminary examination into the charges against them is concluded.

The news of this decision was received throughout the island with great satisfaction, as it is hoped it will lead to the removal of other subordinates, including the Cadi of Larnaca, Hussein Husni Effendi, whose conduct virtually brought the Medjlies Daavi to a close.

His Excellency the Vali has requested the Siva Pasha to take provisional charge of the administration of the island, but it is nevertheless under the supervision of the Mustechar of the vilayet, who is still at Nicosia.

I would mention to your Excellency that the inhabitants of the island greatly desire the return of the former Governor of Larnaca, Said Pasha, and the Commission of the town, composed of Europeans as well as of natives, has lately addressed his Highness the Prime Minister on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. WATKINS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 395.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, April 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 26th instant a Russian steamer arrived here from Odessa, bringing 1,600 men of the Imperial Guard, who form part of a new levy, none of them having been conscripted more than three months ago, and some within the last fifteen days. They are proceeding to San Stefano, viâ Adrianople, and, I am told, are to be followed by 8,000 or 10,000 more; about half of them left to-day for Karnabad and Yamboli.

During their stay here these troops plundered the shops of the ships-chandlers, provision dealers, &c., in a much more scientific manner than was ever attained to by Turkish Bashi-Bazouks at Bourgas. A Turkish Kaïmakam would certainly have made some apparent effort to restrain such excesses, but the authorities here did not make the faintest effort to do so. As a necessary consequence all the shops in the town have been shut for the last three days, and so remain, much to the injury of trade. I am aware that the Russians would, if necessary, declare that such closing was on account of the Greek Easter, but no such order was issued by them till this morning, when the shopkeepers, believing that all the Guard were to leave, wished to reopen, and were forbidden to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BROPHY.

No. 396.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 588.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, respecting the state of affairs in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, April 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Monsignor Panaretos, the Bulgarian Archbishop of Philippopolis, who was removed by the Porte from his see after the troubles of 1876, returned here from Constantinople on the 27th instant, in company with Monsignor Gervasios, the former Suffragan Bishop.

Several of the leading Bulgarians of Philippopolis who had been exiled have also returned within the past ten days. Amongst others I may mention M. Joachim Groneff,

who was lately appointed President of the local Board of Appeal, and the Messrs. Gueshoff.

I regret to have to state that the majority of the Bulgarians of this town are animated by most unfriendly sentiments towards England. With the exception of the Messrs. Gueshoff, none of them have been near me since the arrival of the Russians, to whom, I understand, they have pointed me out as an enemy of their nationality; whereas, up to that time, they had been in the habit of coming to this Vice-Consulate for assistance in their troubles.

The succour sent by the English public to the distressed Bulgarians last year is attributed by those who have always been active in propagating Russian views to the interested motive of a desire to convert the Orthodox peasantry to the Protestant religion. I am sorry to say that these insinuations obtain credence with the people. The tchorbadjees of Peroushtitza came to me six months ago to announce that the temporary school-house put up for them by Lady Strangford was falling into ruin, but that it could be restored at a cost of 300 piastres. I authorized them to spend this sum, but they never did so, and the building has fallen to the ground. The schoolmaster who was employed by Lady Strangford at Peroushtitza assured me that the tchorbadjis purposely allowed it to fall into ruin, having decided at their council that they would rather not possess a school-house built with the intention of proselytizing their children.

The elder M. Gueshoff, who called upon me yesterday, deplored the existence of such feelings; and he told me that your Excellency had advised him to use his influence with his countrymen to induce them to refrain from the misconduct of which a great number of them have lately been guilty. He said that he had great hopes of an improved state of affairs now that Monsignor Panaretos, who wields influence in the country and is a man of enlightened views, has returned.

I suggested to M. Gueshoff that it might be profitable for his Eminence to call together the representatives of all the villages, and exhort them to forbear from ill-treating the miserable remnants of the Turkish population.

Up to the present I continue to hear daily accounts of outrages upon the Turks who have been sent back to their villages.

The Turks in the town, now only 2,000 in number, receive their bread rations regularly (a quarter of an oke—less than 1 lb.—per diem for every adult), but those who are engaged in forced labour continue not to receive a farthing of pay.

Some 400 of them have been removed into tents outside the town. I visited them to-day, in company with Dr. Stoker, of the Turkish Compassionate Fund. Their condition was indescribably horrible. The ground on which the tents were pitched has been converted into a marsh by the recent rains. They sleep and live literally in liquid mud. Half of them were sick, and they had buried forty of their number in the space of six days. They said that they would rather go back to their villages than remain in this condition. I will apply to General Stalibin to-morrow to procure them the means of removing thither.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—May 1.—Monsignor Panaretos called upon me to-day. His Eminence talked like a thoroughly enlightened and liberal man. He expressed great regret at the excesses into which a section of his people have lately been led, but which, he thinks, have been exaggerated. I told him that the hopes of all well-thinking people now centred in him as the person best fitted to restrain by moral means the evil tendencies of those who were now disgracing his nation. His Eminence declared that he would exert all his authority to that end.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, May 1, 1878.

WITH reference to the recent fighting in the Hasskeui district, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that twenty-one Turkish villages, and not twelve, as at first stated, were, I learn on tolerably good authority, burnt by the Russo-Bulgarian forces. The following are the names of these villages:—

Tyndydjak	Koumardji	Yeni-Bazar
Gabrowo	Goushatlylar	Bosinali
Pantadjik	(Yeni-Mahallé)	Kalfalar
Khorozlar	Seidboyli	Kazanly
Karamanlar	Dourakeui	Koumbourlar
Gueutchekli	Kara Tarla	Sheremenler
Yussutchikeui	Mollah Moussarlar	Tchiboukli.

These villages are all situated in the mountains due south from Hasskeui, and at distances varying between three and six and a-half hours (nine and twenty miles) from that town. They do not appear to have been places of much importance, none of them containing more than 100, and the majority not more than sixty houses. With the exception of Gabrowo, which contained some Christian houses, these villages were exclusively Turkish.

It appears now beyond a doubt that the immediate cause of the bloodshed in the Hasskeui district was the outrages committed by Bulgarian irregulars in the lately-destroyed villages. And it is also not denied that the women and children who were left at home when the male inhabitants took up arms were subjected to cruelties and outrages. The guilt of these excesses is attributed by the Bulgarians to the Russians, and by the Russians is laid on the shoulders of the Bulgarians.

Towfik Pasha, who was announced to be coming from Constantinople for the purpose of endeavouring to induce the Mussulman malcontents to give up their arms, has not yet arrived here; but Mustafa Bey, Mehmet Bey, and Aleko Efendi, the three Turkish officers whose arrival here on the same mission I reported in my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, are still at Philippopolis. They are looked upon with apparent suspicion, being attended wherever they go by a Bulgarian policeman.

I observe in the "Levant Herald" of the 24th ultimo the statement that the rising of the Turkish mountaineers extends as far as the Krytchma valley, which is about twenty-five miles south-west of Philippopolis. This is not quite correct, in so far that the insurgents have not as yet descended into the plain at any point further west than the Hasskeui district; it is reported, however, that they hold the mountain fastnesses as far west as Köstendil, and that the Russian troops from Sofia are operating against them in the neighbourhood of the former place.

Some 800 Bulgarian families came down lately from the mountains to the Greek town of Stanimak, having been driven from their homes by fear of the insurgent Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 3, 1878.*

THE epidemics of typhoid fever and other illnesses at Philippopolis have, I regret to say, become more prevalent during the past week, though the death-rate has fortunately decreased on the other hand, as the following returns, for which I am indebted to my French colleague, will show:—

On April 12 there were in the town about 2,016 cases of typhoid fever, dysentery, and small-pox.

Of this number 760 were among the Russian troops.

The following table shows the proportion of sick suffering from each of the illnesses now prevalent:—

Typhoid fever (April 12)—	
Russian troops	758
Christian population	841
Turkish refugees	376
	1,975
Dysentery and abortive typhus	360
Total	2,336

On April 19 there were about 2,016 cases, of which 580 were among the Russian soldiers:—

Typhoid fever (April 19)—	
Russian soldiers	430
Christian population	700
Turkish refugees	120
	1,250
Dysentery and abortive typhus—	
Russian troops	150
Christian population	100
Turkish refugees	..
	320
Small pox—	
Russian troops	20
Christian population	10
Turkish refugees	16
	46
Total	2,016

On May 2 there were upwards of 2,755 cases, of which 1,500 were among Russian soldiers.

Typhoid fever (May 2nd)—	
Russian troops	1,200
Christian population	800
Turkish refugees	200
	2,200
Dysentery and abortive typhus—	
Russian troops	300
Christian population	240
	540
Small pox—	
Russian troops	..
Christian population	15
	15
Total	2,755

The proportion of deaths to the number of sick was:—

On April 12, 10 per cent. per day for Russian soldiers, 5 per cent. per day for the Christian population.

On April 19, 15 per cent. for Russian soldiers, 8 per cent for the Christian population.

On May 2, 8 per cent. for Russian soldiers, 5 per cent. for the Christian population.

The disease known as abortive typhus to the local medical men is called by some of the Russian doctors swamp fever. It is peculiarly virulent, but not contagious, and it does not generally last more than three days, at the end of which time the patient either dies or gets well.

The numbers given, in the above returns, as the proportion of cases among the Turkish refugees, are probably short of the truth. It is impossible to ascertain the exact number of sick refugees, as they get little or no medical attendance.

The increase of sickness latterly has probably been caused by the heavy rains which have fallen this and last week, and which have been followed by hot and sultry weather. The perfunctory manner in which the task of burying the corpses of men and animals has been performed is now also, no doubt, a cause which contributes to the increased unhealthiness of the town. The stench of decaying animal matter meets the nostrils in every direction. It would have been better to have left the corpses unburied. The sun would then have quickly dried them up, but as they are only covered by an inch or two of earth, the sun does not act upon them sufficiently, and the process of putrefaction will probably go on with fatal results all through the summer.

The cattle disease, reported in my despatch of the 9th April, has now almost disappeared. But it has wrought tremendous ravages. Half of the horned cattle of the province have been carried off by it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been informed this evening that a conscription among the Bulgarian population of this sandjak will be commenced on Monday next, the 6th May.

The Caza of Philippopolis (or Plowdiw, the Bulgarian name by which it is now officially known) will, I am informed, be required to furnish a contingent of 6,000 men.

This number represents about 10 per cent. of the Bulgarian male population of all ages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 397.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 591.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from the Turkish newspaper the "Vakit," relating to the difficulties in the way of the return of the Mussulman fugitives from the Turkish provinces occupied by Russia to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 397.

Extract from the "Vakit."

LE Grand Duc Nicolas recevant, quelques jours avant son départ, une députation Bulgare qui était venue présenter à son Altesse une adresse de remercîments, a recommandé à ces députés de conseiller à leurs nationaux de vivre en harmonie et en bons termes avec les Musulmans, leurs compatriotes.

Cette recommandation de son Altesse avait bien son importance. En effet, nous voyons que la nouvelle a été transmise immédiatement par télégraphe aux journaux d'Europe.

Tout en remerciant le Grand Duc pour cette preuve de ses sentiments d'humanité et de justice, nous croyons devoir constater ici qu'il demeure acquis que son Altesse n'a fait cette recommandation aux députés que parce qu'elle savait que les biens, la vie, et l'honneur des Musulmans étaient loin d'être respectés en Bulgarie.

Mais son Altesse peut-elle être certaine que ses paroles ont produit de l'effet en Bulgarie?

Nous recevons de tous côtés de bien tristes nouvelles. Les horreurs qui se passent actuellement en Bulgarie seront une tache ineffaçable pour ce siècle de civilisation.

Jusqu'à présent on prétendait, et l'on faisait accroire, que le Gouvernement Impérial et son administration étaient les causes qui empêchaient la nation Bulgare de progresser matériellement et moralement, et de profiter des bienfaits de la civilisation. Cette croyance a été formellement démentie, aussitôt que les Bulgares ont été laissés maîtres de leurs actes. Au lieu de s'empresser de profiter de ces bienfaits, dont ils prétendent avoir été frustrés, ces Bulgares ont fait voir à tout le monde que c'est encore l'administration Ottomane qui les avait empêchés jusqu'ici de mettre en évidence les mœurs sauvages qu'ils ont apportées avec eux des rives du Volga, et dont il ne se sont pas encore dépouillés. Les Russes eux-mêmes ont constaté cette vérité et en expriment leurs regrets. Les journaux Russes l'attestent.

Cet état de choses fait naître des réflexions qui—nous en avons la conviction—feront surgir de grandes objections lorsque le moment viendra de résoudre définitivement la question de l'indépendance Bulgare. L'Europe a compris que ce peuple est incapable de se gouverner par lui-même. Ses actes ont déjà prouvé qu'il n'emploiera le pouvoir qui lui

sera confié que pour détruire les autres nationalités qui se partagent le sol de la Roumélie.

Il y aurait peut-être encore une circonstance atténuante pour les Bulgares, si leurs procédés vexatoires ne visaient que les Musulmans. Mais personne n'ignore que leur attitude n'est pas meilleure à l'égard des Grecs, des Arméniens, des Israélites et de tous les autres habitants qui ne sont pas d'origine Slave.

Il est donc inutile de recommander à un pareil peuple de vivre en harmonie avec les Musulmans. Il faut des mesures plus sévères pour mettre fin à cet état de choses.

No. 398.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, April* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday afternoon the lighter No. 5, belonging to the Danube Tug and Lighter Company Limited, came down to Galatz in tow of the gun-boat "Romania," and that, on its arrival, I was informed by one of the partners of Messrs. Foscolo and Company, agents at Galatz for the above Company, that this lighter had been seized by the Russians some time ago at Turnu Magurelle, and I was requested to take measures to obtain the restitution of their property. It was at the same time mentioned that a tug-boat and another lighter were also in the possession of the Russian military authorities at some point up the river out of my Consulate.

I at once waited on the Russian Consul and explained the matter to him, stating that I should make a formal written demand for the immediate restitution of the lighter, but that I called upon him in the first instance so that no time should be lost, and with a view to coming to an arrangement by means of a friendly interchange of ideas in lieu of entering on what might prove a long and disagreeable correspondence.

M. Romanenko fully admitted the illegality of the seizure, but stated that compensation would be paid, and that it had been the act of a military or naval man, who probably had had no opportunity of studying international law, and saw no other way of obtaining the transport of which he stood in need. He stated that he would see to the matter the first thing on the following morning.

Although it was getting late, I begged M. Romanenko to take measures the same evening, pointing out to him that the matter was one of considerable gravity, and that although I believed that if an arrangement for the restitution of the lighter were made at once I could offer to allow her to discharge her cargo at any point she was now bound for, and that in all probability, beyond a claim for fair compensation for the time that she had been employed, nothing more would be heard of the matter, in the event of her leaving her present position without an early date being agreed upon for her being handed back to her owners, I should have no choice but to lay the whole matter before your Lordship.

M. Romanenko on this said he would at once see the Commandant of the Russian flotilla, and in about an hour's time he called upon me and stated that in four days' time, earlier if possible, immediately on her cargo being discharged at Sulina, the lighter should be restored to her owners at Galatz, and that a telegram had been sent ordering the tug and lighter up river to be given up at once. He at the same time begged me not to formulate any written demand, and I agreed, under the circumstances, to take no further action till the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 399.

Vice-Consul Suter to Mr. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 16.)

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Volo, April* 26, 1878.

THE reports from Larissa continue to state that there has been much fighting going on between the Turkish troops and the insurgents near Karditza, but no particulars are given, although it is rumoured that the latter obtain the advantage,

and even have captured three guns from the former. Two additional battalions of infantry were recently sent from Larissa to that quarter, and other three to Tricala, and four more have just been dispatched to Elassona, to be distributed in that neighbourhood from the districts near which several bands of insurgents are announced as having made appearance.

In other directions and in the positions in the vicinity of the frontier, not far from Armyro, for the present they remain inactive, principal operations being now from the side of Agrapha, about Tricala and Karditza, at the village of St. George. Near to the latter mentioned place it is said they surrounded and cut to pieces two days ago a party of about 300 marauding Albanians, which had entered the province from Arta to pillage.

On the 22nd instant Mr. Consul Blunt and Consul Merlin went from this in Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," and landing in Armyro Bay, together with Captain Clark and a guard of sailors from that vessel, proceeded with an escort from the authorities to Armyro, and thence to a convent at some distance, where they had a meeting with a number of the insurgent chiefs. The result, which these gentlemen will report to the Ambassador, seems to be hopeful for their mission, and leads to an expectation that their further efforts may be attended with some success towards securing its object. They returned to Volo on the 23rd, and this morning left for Larissa, whence they will go on to Karditza, where further interviews will take place with insurgent leaders of the movement, who are in that direction. Their return to Volo is expected about the middle of next week.

The "Bisson," French war-ship, left Volo for Salonica the 23rd instant, and Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" the next day to return to her station at the Piræus. The first-mentioned, it is thought, will be back in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 400.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May 9, 1878.*

TSURUKSOOLI Osman Pasha has just informed me that, in consequence of orders from Dervish Pasha, he was not allowed to leave for Batoum, and that his brother, Ali Pacha, fearing some ill-treatment on the part of the Turkish Commander-in-chief, who had represented them both to be Russian agents, abstained from proceeding to that place.

No confirmation has been received as yet of the departure for the camp of Sikindjir of Dervish Pasha, who, according to the last news, had made all preparations for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 401.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. .)
My Lord, *Smyrna, May 9, 1878.*

THE deep interest I feel in the struggle which now seems inevitable between England and Russia will, I trust, plead as my excuse for the liberty I take in laying before your Lordship the inclosed paper on the importance of attacking Russia on her Georgian frontier, by way of Armenia, and on the composition of the attacking army.

As a civilian the subjects I discuss are certainly beyond my province, and I may be overstepping the limits of prudence in entering on them; my earnest desire, however, is to be useful to my country, and if in imparting the information I have been able to collect and offering opinions based on intercourse with the people of Asia Minor, and on personal experience, I am humbly able to be so, I shall feel that my boldness will not have been ill-judged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 401.

Memorandum.

IN the early part of last year I had the honour to lay before the Secretary of State a paper in which, believing that the war with Turkey must eventually bring England into the conflict, and that Erzeroum would be selected as the head-quarters of an expeditionary force operating against Georgia, I gave an outline of the roads leading from the seaboard to that town, a sketch of the general features of the country, and a detail of those resources on which such a force would, to a great extent, have to depend. The conquest of Armenia and occupation of Erzeroum have rendered much of the information I then gave of little present use, but the success of the Russians has brought prominently forward the importance of Armenia to us as a barrier in Asia to Russian aggression, and has made the necessity of forcing back the enemy of Turkey within his Georgian frontiers more apparent.

A campaign in Armenia should not be regarded as a secondary object in a war between England and Russia, and to make such a campaign a mere diversion to divide the forces of the enemy would be a grave error, and a mere repetition of the error committed in 1855, when, had Russia been seriously attacked on her Armeno-Georgian frontier, instead of in the Crimea, the results would have been much more solid and lasting.

Russia, along her very extensive frontier, has two weak, and to her, very dangerous points for attack; they are the two points where non-Russian populations hold the country—Poland and Georgia. From political causes and through common interests, the safety of the Polish frontier is assured to Russia by Germany and Austria, but along the Georgian frontier no neighbours having common interests or political relations secure her safety, and there she is very weak, and the enemy who succeeded in forcing that frontier would find himself immediately in the midst of sympathizers and able and valuable helpers, while the Russians would as suddenly find the country they held as their own turned into a hostile field.

Georgia, Circassia, Daghestan, posses no Russian population; they are held by tribes and nations whose sympathies are not with the Russians, whose religions not only are not similar to the Russian, but are markedly antagonistic to it. Georgia, Circassia, and Daghestan are inhabited by peoples inimical to the Russians, who, though they hold those lands, may be said not to possess them; they have conquered the people, but have not brought them to accept their rule; their tenure is precarious, and dependent entirely on their military supremacy.

Along the Danube, along the northern shores of the Black Sea, and in the Baltic, Russia is strong, strong from the fact that in these regions she has no disloyal populations waiting only for the advent of an enemy bearing on his flag the prestige of victory to rise in arms and give their hearty aid to him; this was her strength in 1855. She was attacked in the Crimea, but so well did she know that defeat there would and could bring no serious disaster on her, that she did not hesitate to continue to act as the aggressor in Asia Minor, and while she was struggling in a vain effort to hold Sevastopol, she did not hesitate to divide her strength and throw a large force boldly forward into Armenia, where she vanquished the Turks and seized Kars, a fortress which was held to be equal to Sevastopol. The effects of any successful attack on any point on the Danubian frontier, on the Black Sea frontier, or in the Baltic, cannot throw its influence beyond the immediate vicinity of the point attacked, simply because no sympathizing population exists on those points to carry the seeds of such influence inland. This was clearly shown in 1855. The fall of Sevastopol did not give to England an inch of vantage-ground beyond Sevastopol itself, the moral effects of that victory did not extend even to Simpheropol. Sevastopol fell, but it did not carry with it, as a consequence, even a village beyond the radius of its guns. This is easy to understand. Putting aside the small and effeminate population of Tartars, the Crimea had for its population a people whose sympathies were Russian, whose love was for the Emperor. To them defeat was but an incentive to new efforts at resistance. Hence they lent no aid to the invader, and they minimized instead of exaggerating his success and his prowess. The Russians knew this well, and they consequently did not feel that alarm at the fall of Sevastopol which might have been looked for as a result following the fall of the strongest fortress.

The Crimean war has naturally frequently formed the topic of conversation between myself and Russian officers during the ten years I was in Russia. By them it was invariably spoken of as a mistake—a great waste of life and treasure, solely from a wrong appreciation of the point where the blow ought to have been struck.

The allies, so say the Russians, ruined the object they had in view. They destroyed

a fortress, but they neither weakened Russia nor lessened her power of aggression, they merely retarded it for a short time.

To be materially weakened, to be deprived of the ability to threaten the peace of Europe by intrigues in the dominion of the Sultan, Russia must be struck at through Georgia by way of Armenia. Other points may be menaced to oblige her to divide her forces and thus weaken her in her defence of her Georgian frontier, but the main attack on her must be made through Georgia. The loss of one battle on the frontiers of that country would immediately raise against her such a host of enemies, the odds against her would at once become so heavy, that her armies would be obliged to give up the defence of Georgia and would probably find it difficult, and perhaps not possible, to force their way beyond the Caucasus.

Supposing it were decided on to attack Russia through Georgia, the next subject for serious consideration would be the force necessary for such an enterprise. If we are to be guided in our estimate of what force Russia could deploy for the defence of Georgia by the war just concluded, Russia could not bring more than 120,000 men for the defence of that country; but supposing she could place 200,000 men, of these at least 80,000 would be absorbed in the defence of fortified positions and for the protection of lines of communication, leaving 120,000 for field operations. This would probably be the force the invader would have to overcome. He would therefore have to advance with an army of at least equal strength.

The Provinces of Diarbekir, Van, Kharpoot, Sivas, and Lazistan would with ease furnish, not 120,000, but 300,000 good fighting men, who, man to man, would be more than a match for the best soldiers of Russia, whether in strength, courage, or endurance.

I use the phrase "would furnish," and not "could furnish," because I am persuaded that England has but to show her flag in Asia Minor, and appeal to the Mussulman population, and volunteers would crowd to her standard in a constant stream. The Mussulman peasant looks to England as his last and only hope, not to restore to him the misgovernment under which he has been ruined, but to restore to his country peace and prosperity by freeing it of Russia and by organizing a Government under the rule of the Sultan which will protect right and yield justice to all. The Mussulman peasant looks to England as the upholder of truth and justice; he believes that whatever she may do in his country is done with no selfish object, but is done to uphold and defend right and justice and to increase his security and prosperity. Hence the remarkable sympathy England meets with in the breasts of the Mussulman peasantry, a sympathy which gives her great influence in the country, and which, in the present crisis, would show itself by the thousands of stalwart men who would ask to fight under her flag.

It is a mistake to suppose that the struggle with Russia has drained the country of its best war material, at least in Asiatic Turkey, the best blood has not yet been engaged. The Mussulman population has during the past twenty years been so alienated by misrule and oppression from the Sultan and the Government that the call to arms in 1876 and 1877 met with but a cold response, I may say no response at all; the peasantry knew that to shed their blood in the cause of the Sultan was but to give their lives to uphold and to perpetuate the system which had beggared them, the call consequently met with no response, and the Government had to resort to force to bring their armies up to a war footing. Thus the 4th Army Corps, which had for its feeder a country which could have easily given 500,000 men, was never brought up to an effective of 100,000, and certainly half the recruits and reserves who joined their colours were driven at the point of the bayonet to their depôts, and had to be marched manacled till they were so far away from their homes that desertion becoming so surrounded by risks, few would dare to resort to it. This aversion to join the ranks necessarily led to evasion by every possible means, the strong and healthy who could escape to the mountains, and the better off who could purchase their freedom, never joined, and now remain ready and heartily willing to enroll themselves under the British flag, and we could now form an army in Asia Minor, quite strong enough in numbers to meet any force the Russians might apportion for the defence of their conquests in Armenia and for the defence of Georgia. All such an army would require to make it thoroughly efficient as a fighting body would be a British officer to each company and a leader to each battalion. With such a corps of officers to lead the men and to guide and direct the native officers, such an army would be thoroughly efficient, and would, I am certain, never disgrace itself even had it to try its strength and courage against the most disciplined army any Government could put forth, and I feel that I can without hesitation say that it would be far superior in physique, courage, and discipline to any foreign legion we could form. All I desire to say further on this subject here is to urge that the employment of foreign officers, with the exception of Hungarians, be avoided as much as possible. My experience, and I have seen a good deal of foreign

officers commanding Turkish troops, is that they are untrustworthy, and, were they taken into our service, would, I am sure, soon prove themselves a curse instead of a blessing. The Turks do not like or respect them, and, consequently, feel no confidence in them. Sir Fenwick Williams knew this so well, that, when, he undertook the defence of Kars, of the many foreign officers who had joined the army he only retained three, General Kmety, Colonel Schwartzenberg, and Major Taschler, all the others, Germans, Poles, Frenchmen, and Italians, even to the Chief of the Staff, General Guyon, he sent away.

I have attempted to show which is the really valuable point for attack of Russia, that point being Georgia; the next subject, a very important one, is how, now Russia has conquered Armenia, she can be attacked on her Georgian frontier, and which should be the starting-point against her in that quarter? These are questions which I discussed minutely with that able General, Ahmet Mukhtar Pasha, who being thoroughly conversant with the country now occupied by the Russians, must be considered no mean authority. He assured me, and as far as I, a civilian, can judge, I believe him to be quite correct, that the Russians could be compelled to abandon their conquests, and to fall back on Gumri (Alexandropol), Erivan, and Akhalsik, without, so to speak, firing a shot, by turning their positions, and threatening in force their lines of communication. To do this would bring no serious danger on the columns working out the plan, for they would be traversing a country whose population, being earnest sympathizers, would co-operate heartily with them. The people would help in every way, and would materially aid in keeping communications open with the base, while to the Russians they would present a passive hostility which would be most embarrassing; the Koords would, by a guerilla warfare, also cause them much trouble, and oblige them to weaken their columns in having to detach large bodies to collect provisions, protect convoys, and maintain communication with Georgia.

A subject requiring serious consideration is, where the base of operations or point of departure for a campaign should be fixed. It must, I presume, be a point beyond the immediate reach of the enemy, yet sufficiently near to the field of operations to facilitate the advance of troops with the least possible fatigue, to limit the extent of lines of communication as much as possible, to render the transport of supplies easy, and to render the accumulation of supplies, whether from the neighbourhood or from abroad, and the concentration of troops, easy and expeditious.

For a campaign in Asia Minor no point embraces within itself all these requirements more advantageously than does the town of Erzingjian (commonly called Erzingan). This town became the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps after the Crimean war, on account of its central position, being within easy reach of Erzeroum, Trebizond, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, Sivas, and the Koord country.

The town is built in a well-watered plain, the climate is salubrious, and being more temperate than that of Erzeroum, it is more productive in vegetables and fruits. The town is large through a great number of buildings having been erected for the use of the 4th Army Corps, thus a large force could be at once placed under good shelter.

Erzingjian is situated on the high road from Armenia to Constantinople, and it is connected by several roads with Trebizond and with Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, and other interior towns; from Trebizond it is distant about 165 miles, and from Erzeroum about 100 miles by the most direct route (see map). The carriage road between Trebizond and Erzeroum forms part of the road to Erzingan, that is from Trebizond to Hadrak, about ninety miles; from Hadrak this road—no longer a constructed road—turns south, assuming the usual character of a mountain road, and loses its character of a main road, but I have been told by persons who have been over it, that, like all other tracks leading to that town, it is not difficult, and very little repair would render it carriageable.

The most direct road from Trebizond to Erzinjian is by the track which leaves the main road at Gumush Khané, passing through Kielkit, Tchiflik, Hur, Haik, Karagoulak, and Serker. This, I believe, is the post road, and, from what I have heard, is much shorter than the road viâ Hadrak. From Erzinjian to Erzeroum there are three main roads (not constructed roads). The direct, a summer road, goes by Martaklee, Kighé, and Kosarlar, and is about 100 miles in length; along it guns and carts go with facility.

Another equally good but longer road goes up the Euphrates Valley to Avrank, where, taking an easterly direction, it passes through Mamakhatoon, a district producing much good rice, enters the trunk road at Ashkaleh. This road is also available for carriage and guns. This is one of the winter routes.

A third road runs along the Euphrates Valley to Ashkaleh. This route is sometimes used in winter, but, I believe, it is liable to stoppages from snow-drifts.

Supposing Erzingjian were selected as the head-quarters for an army operating against Georgia, and Trebizond the landing point, the town of Baiboort (105 miles from

Trebizond, and 66 from Erzeroom) would become a position of great importance not only to protect the trunk road, but as a point of concentration for a column destined to march round, viâ Ispir, or by Ashkaleh, along the northern foot of the plain of Erzeroum on the Georgian frontier at Akhalsik.

While Baiboort was held, the Russians could threaten no point of the trunk road below it, and no attempt on Trebizond could be made from the higher lands, as every route from the interior joins on the trunk road above Baiboort, and divides again from six to twenty miles below it, and the trunk road is the only route by which guns could be conveyed to Trebizond.

Baiboort is admirably situated for an intrenched position, the water supply is abundant and good, there is ample space outside the town for camping purposes, the low hills above the town could be easily fortified, and the town could thus be rendered formidably strong. Should the Russians take up a position on the trunk road between Erzeroum and Baiboort, so as to oppose the march of a column along the northern foot of the Erzeroum Plain, they would be exposed to a front attack from Baiboort, and to a flank attack, or attack in rear, from the point of junction of the Erzingjian road at Ashkaleh. I do not, however, believe the Russians would, if they did not gain possession of Baiboort, attempt to occupy any point on the Trebizond road further removed from Erzeroum than Illijeh, as to do so, with any hope of success, would require a large force. The occupation of Baiboot would give a strong and easibly defensible position, but every other point between that town and Ashkaleh would be weak in itself, and would demand a very considerable force to hold it, and it would not be of much value strategically even if held by a competent force, for it could be turned by way of Ispir.

The danger of throwing troops so far forward as Baiboort before their hold of Armenia was full established, was too well demonstrated in 1828 to make the Russians think of attempting to repeat the error of that year.

In 1828 a column was pushed forward and reached Baiboort, but disaster soon overtook it and but few men returned to Erzeroum to relate its fate.

Those who know the country can well understand how this column was destroyed. The chain of mountains separating the Erzeroum Plain from the Baiboort Valley is at least twelve miles in width, it consists of a confused mass of gullies and peaks, with precipitous sides, where not more than ten men can go abreast on the made road. As this road winds round and over these hillocks it makes many abrupt turns, and affords numerous spots for concealment and attack. At its entrance into the valley of Baiboort it winds through a deep precipitous valley, where a few men on the heights could keep a large force at bay; as the valley opens out it is intersected by numerous lateral valleys, equally favourable to attack, defence, and retreat. This country was held by peasants bent on the destruction of the enemy, and having to cope with an isolated column, whose communications with the main force were intercepted, they succeeded completely, and the advance to Baiboort was marked by the loss to Russia of about 8,000 men. The country is now as difficult as it was in 1828, and the people as hostile to the Russians. The Russians could not, therefore, be so imprudent as to disperse their forces, not only in the midst of an inimical population, but in the face of a powerful enemy. It is, consequently, reasonable to suppose they would confine themselves to the protection of Erzeroum, Kars, and the roads leading thence to Georgia, and to the defence of the frontier. Thus there would be little difficulty or danger to oppose the advance of columns from Erzingjian to the Gurji Bogas, by the northern foot of the plain of Erzeroum, to Akhalsik, by way of Ispir, and for another column to push forward to the western extremity of the Erzeroum Plain, and thence by way of Khinnis to fall on the Russian line of communication in the Plain of Passin, or in the Soghanlee Mountains. I do not believe the Russians would or could continue to hold Erzeroum pending such movements, as their accomplishment would inevitably result in the capture of the garrison, they would be compelled to fall back on Kars, and probably on their own frontier, where one Russian defeat would raise such a host of enemies, that their position in Georgia would become most critical.

I have stated that an army of 120,000 men would be sufficient to recover Armenia and invade Georgia. I do not think that of this force more than 20,000 men should be British soldiers, but about that number would be required as a nucleus, and to be used only at critical moments.

The force in British artillery should be strong, as the Turkish artillerymen are not good marksmen, and it would take too much time to make them sufficiently efficient to be thoroughly depended upon.

We ought also to have a good force in cavalry, for though every Turk is a horseman, still the Turk makes a bad cavalryman. Under British discipline he could be changed, but it would take more time than could be spared.

The Koords have been represented as cowardly, brutal, and untrustworthy, not only by "correspondents," but also by myself, and the bad fame they have earned is but too well merited, but all that has been reported regarded the Koords as Bashi-Bazouks, not as soldiers. Military discipline, to which they are very amenable, soon changes them into good soldiers, docile and obedient. It must not be forgotten that the army which resisted the Russians for six months in Asia was recruited chiefly from Koord levies, and this fact is, I think, sufficient to prove that they are capable of being rapidly turned into excellent soldiers. Under British officers they would prove as good men as any we could call to arms.

It should be borne in mind that Koordistan now contains about 100,000 men who have already served in the army, and who are, consequently, trained soldiers; at the least half of this number would enrol under our flag, so that immediately after the call we should be in possession of an army of about 50,000 trained soldiers who, under British officers, would never show their backs to an enemy.

The late war drained all the country which was the theatre of the war of all resources, but the interior provinces were hardly drawn on at all. At Erzingjian, large supplies of wheat, barley, hay, rice, and meat could be easily collected. Means of transport could also be procured without difficulty. Horses, mules, and camels could be purchased in the districts of Van, Moosh, Seïrt, Diarbekir, Erzingjian, and the Dersin, and caravans of horses, mules, and camels could be engaged by hire from the same districts and from Persia. By hire alone I do not think it would be at all difficult to engage 20,000 animals.

Should Erzingjian be selected as a military centre, I would earnestly recommend that the roads from Gumush Khané to Erzingjian, and from Hadrak to the same town, be immediately roughly repaired, to render the passage of guns and carts easy; this could be easily and expeditiously done by the Turkish Government without exciting much notice, as Erzingjian has again become the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps. The direct road from Erzingjian to Erzeroum and the road to Ashkaleh ought also to be repaired to a distance which would not raise suspicion.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Smyrna, May 3, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 401.

Chart showing Roads from Erzeroum to Erzingjian, and from Erzingjian to Erzeroum.

No. 402.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, May 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no further fighting in the Rhodope Mountains, so far as is known, and that the state of affairs at Adrianople has become more tranquil.

With reference to the former subject, I took occasion to mention in my despatch to your Lordship No. 7 of the 20th ultimo, that hostilities were reported to have broken out in the valley of the Kritchima. That intelligence reached me, at second hand, from a well-informed and reliable person, who, having just arrived here from those parts, enables me now to furnish more authentic and precise details. It has become plain that the actual fighting, represented to me as being of recent date, took place so long ago as between the 15th and 20th February last. The Pomaks in that neighbourhood are, nevertheless, also associated with the present general rising, and not altogether passively so, since they destroyed on the 17th ultimo two Bulgarian villages (Despod and another) above Batak.

The head-quarters of the Mussulman movement in those parts are the Pomak villages of Leskova, Mikhalkova, and Dovlen, towards the summit of the mountains and near the confines of the Vilayet of Salonica. The Mussulmans of that Alpine region furnished a large contingent to the forces lately engaged near Hasskioï and in the valley of the Arda, as did also, it is said, the people of Nevrokop, on the western slope of Rhodope. Two Russian columns have for some time past been threatening those positions, namely, one 500 strong, from Tatar-Bazardjik by way of Peshtera and

Batak, and the other, 1,000 strong, from Philippopolis by way of Deyirmenderch. The Pomaks to the south-east having driven out the Bulgarian inhabitants of Rahovo, Babalsko, and Tchiralsko (this last a place of 4,000 or 5,000 souls), and compelled them to fly to Stanimak, the Russians have thrown out in that direction a third column of infantry and cavalry, supported by a field battery, and this force has now, it is said, occupied those villages as well as Stanimak. The other two columns have recently been reinforced, a fact which, taken with the aggressive attitude of the Pomaks, seems to betoken active hostilities.

My informant, a foreign timber merchant, intimately acquainted with those parts, reckons the number of mountaineers in arms in the country about Tatar-Bazardjik, Philippopolis, and Hisskioi at 30,000. This estimate does not include any further bodies of combatants that may exist in the extreme northern and southern parts of the Rhodope chain, as to which regions my informant knows nothing from personal observation. He confirms the statement that, associated with the fighting mountaineers, are many refugees from the country to the east, stragglers from Suleiman Pasha's army, and fugitives of every kind.

As regards the panic which prevailed among the railway employés on the line within sound of the firing on the 23rd and 24th ultimo, the same authority affirms that it was not warranted by any imminent danger. There is reason to believe this to be the case, although it is maintained, on the other hand, that the mountaineers fought their way to within 6 kilom. of the line at Yeni-Mahallé, and that thirty-eight wounded Russians were taken to Philippopolis from that station alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 103.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 16.*)

(No. 12. Political.)

Adrianople, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a rising similar in character to that in the Rhodope Mountains is reported on good authority to have taken place in the hilly country between Adrianople and the Black Sea, where a great number of Mussulman fugitives are collected. No actual fighting appears to have occurred as yet, but the Turks have opposed with arms the passage of a Russian detachment, which was on its way from Adrianople to Bourgas a few days ago, and compelled it to turn back. The tract of country thus held against Russian authority extends in that direction, between Kaibilar, twelve hours from Adrianople, and Karabunar, on the stream of the same name, a breadth of six or seven hours. Bulgarians arrived from these parts represent the movement to be a very serious one; and other accounts connect it with a general rising, which is believed to embrace the whole of the Eastern Balkans.

As regards the Rhodope Mountains, it is very difficult to obtain reliable information of the progress of events. No intelligence reaches this from the other side, nor do the Russians allow access to their lines from here. Moreover, such news as transpires from Russian sources, on this and other subjects, is singularly uncertain and contradictory. Even as regards an event which occured at Adrianople itself, the false alarm on the night of the 26th instant, I have heard three different and totally incon-istent Russian accounts.

During the last few days further fighting in the neighbourhood of Hasskioi has been reported, and probably with truth, since small batches of Turkish prisoners, some of them wounded, are daily brought in here. I am unable to say, however, whether these latest engagements really have the importance which is attributed to them, or what credit is to be attached to the further statements that they have resulted unfavourably to the Russian arms, that the Russians have even lost three guns, and that a large number of wounded men and officers were sent up by railway from Hasskioi to Philippopolis on the 6th instant. It is certain that two field batteries went forward from this towards Hasskioi on the 4th instant, and that many troops have gone the same way within the last few days.

Further south, the troops are said to have taken and destroyed Sel-bilirim, the Turks losing 60 men. The Russians are said to have raised three redoubts there, mounting 12 guns in all. The mass of their forces on the Arda is concentrated at or near Mahmoudhu-Djemaati.

I learn from some respectable Jewish traders, who arrived here a day or two ago

from Kustendil, the following particulars regarding the state of affairs in the northernmost districts of Rhodope.

About the 10th of April, the Russians marched from Sofia and Radomir on Kustendil with a small force, which was repulsed by the people of the town and neighbouring districts. They then returned to the attack with 8,000 men and 20 guns. Upon this the Mussulmans abandoned Kustendil and retired to the hills, from which they and the fugitives from Radomir and other places harassed the invaders, and inflicted on them a loss of 150 men. The pass of Dveh-boyouni, leading to Egri-Palanka and Komonova was, by the latest accounts, the limit of the Russian advance in that direction. It appears that the country beyond is held by a body of Turkish regulars under Hafyz Pasha, who commanded at Nish during the late campaign, and who retreated with his division through Radomir and Kustendil to Komanoyn. So far as my informants know, there has been no collision between these Turkish troops and the Russian forces operating from Kustendil.

Djumaa, on the Karasu, is the southernmost point which the Russians have reached on the west of Rhodope; nor are they likely to attempt to penetrate further down the river, its lower course lying through an exceedingly rough and difficult country. When the Russians approached Djumaa from Kustendil they summoned the inhabitants and the fugitives there to surrender and give up their arms. The latter returned the usual answer that they were ready to do so if the Russians would guarantee their lives and property. The Russians then brought up four guns at night and bombarded the place, destroying the houses of Christians and Mussulmans alike. The Mussulmans, leaving their dead and wounded, then fled to the mountains. The road between Dubnitsa and Djumaa is held by the fugitives.

The Russians have now, it is said, but 120 men and two guns at Kustendil, and a yet smaller force at Djumaa.

At Adrianople the Russian authorities appear to be taking some measures at last with a view to repress the cruel ill-treatment to which the unhappy Mussulmans who have remained in the country, or who have attempted to return to their homes, are subjected at the hands of the Christian population. To-day forty Bulgarians were brought in here, in chains, from the neighbourhood of Kirk-Kilissa, where they have been robbing and maltreating Turkish emigrants who were coming back to their villages from Constantinople under safe-conducts from the Russian authorities. Meanwhile the poor Turkish villagers are coming in daily from all parts of the country, the victims of a general system of expulsion which it is evident the Christian population, both Greeks and Bulgarians, deem to be a fit concomitant of the new era of civilization and equal rights now inaugurated.

I need only cite one case, that of Bashükly, a mixed village of thirty Bulgarian and fifty Turkish families, two hours from Kyzil-Yenidjé, in the district of Adrianople. The Christians began, as usual, by stripping their Mussulman neighbours of the whole of their flocks and herds, including nearly 200 draught oxen, all their stock of grain, amounting to 10,000 kilog., and such personal property as they considered worth taking. They have, moreover, burnt down the mosque, schoolhouse, and ten of the Turkish houses, pulling down the rest to use the materials for fuel, and they have even been at the pains of breaking the tombstones. Whilst robbing their helpless Turkish neighbours of their stores of food the Bulgarians now grudge them even bread enough to keep them from starving, and leave them to subsist as best they can, on spinach. They, moreover, commit nightly outrages on the unfortunate women and girls, one of the latest cases of the kind being the violation of an orphan girl, twelve years old, named Sabrié, daughter of one Berber Salih. When the Turks asked the Bulgarians to allow them to quit, the latter refused unless the Turks would sign a declaration to the effect that they had no grounds of complaint against the Bulgarians. Finally three of the men came away secretly to Adrianople, and have given in a petition to the authorities imploring compassion and help.

Such cases as these are the rule, not the exception, and they assuredly are more than sufficient to explain the attitude of the Mussulmans in those districts which have not yet been subjected to the Russo-Bulgarian régime. The Russian authorities ought not therefore to be surprised at the consequences, now becoming manifest, of a supineness on their part which has amounted to virtual acquiescence in a state of things calculated to drive even a mean-spirited people to desperation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 404.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 526.)
My Lord,
St. Petersburgh, May 11 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation by Mr. Michell, a fiery appeal by the Chief Committee (of which the Czarewitch is President) for public subscriptions for the equipment of a naval volunteer force and of cruizers against English commerce.

I may observe to your Lordship that this measure is calling forth lamentations by some organs of the Press that this appeal may act prejudicially in regard to the Red Cross Society, which is greatly in want of funds for the sick and wounded, and for the support of the widows and families of those who have sacrificed their lives for their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 404.

Appeal to the Russian Public in aid of equipping Naval Volunteer Force.

THE following appeal has been published by the Chief Committee (the President of which is the Heir Apparent), for the equipment of a naval volunteer force, inviting the public to contribute towards the above object:—

"The Almighty has a new trial in store for Russia. Our irreconcilable foe threatens us with war. Compatriots! Shall we allow him to destroy the fruits of our victories, and again enthral our brethren whom we have emancipated?

"Our foe is strong on the seas. Both in number and capabilities his naval forces are superior to ours. We may, however, do him sensible injury on the high seas. All must know that the interests of our foe consist merely of profit and gain. He possesses an enormous mercantile fleet; 30,000 of his ships cover the oceans in all directions. It is here that the blow must be struck. When our foe will close our seas and, as in the Crimean war, burn and ravage our coast settlements, his commercial fleet on the ocean must, in its turn, be made to feel the miseries of war. For this purpose we require swift and strong vessels which would serve as unexpected scourges on the ocean highways of our enemy.

"The last war covered our Russian sailors with glory; with slightly-built boats they attacked formidable monitors, and issued victorious out of such an unequal struggle. Give them proper vessels, launch them on the oceans in pursuit of the enemy's mercantile fleet, and our foe will repent his self-assurance.

"Sons of Russia, you, who rose as one man whenever danger menaced our Holy Mother Russia, will now likewise unanimously respond to her appeal, and combine to create a volunteer fleet which will again show the world what the Russian people can do when called on to guard the honour of their fatherland."

Contributions will be received, at Moscow, by the Chief Committee, whose office is in the Chancery of the Governor-General of Moscow; at the offices for the Encouragement of Russian Commercial Navigation, Count Komarofski's house, by M. Kamin, Treasurer of the Chief Committee.

In other towns:—(1) by all the local Committees appointed for the collection of subscriptions; (2) in all the branches of the Society for the Encouragement of Russian Commercial Navigation.

No. 405.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 279.)
My Lord,
Athens, May 3, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 1st and 2nd instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that two of the persons therein mentioned were overheard at Syra speaking Russian together.

I am informed that there are no vessels at Corfu under the American flag.

I have telegraphed the above to Her Majesty's Representatives at Rome, Constantinople, and Alexandria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 406.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord,
Athens, May 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, telegraphs that the five persons referred to in my telegrams of the 1st and 2nd instants arrived there on the 2nd, that they had no passports, but obtained them from the German Consul, and started yesterday for Constantinople, from whence it appears that they came to Athens.

I have sent the above to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, Rome, and Alexandria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 407.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 287.)
My Lord,
Athens, May 7, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received the following telegram from Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna:—"Prince Oldenbourg was one of the five persons; two others were Russian Engineer Officers. They seem to be especially interested in the port and railroad."

I have telegraphed this to Her Majesty's Representatives in Turkey, Italy, and Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 408.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 16.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 16 Mai, 1878.

D'APRÈS des informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte, les Monténégrins font subir aux prisonniers de guerre Ottomans se trouvant entre leurs mains les traitements les plus barbares. Non contents d'assujettir ces malheureux aux travaux les plus pénibles, tels que constructions de routes et de retranchements, ils les emploient pour le transport du matériel de guerre, et les maltraitent continuellement à coups de crosse de fusil, après les avoir dépouillés de leurs vêtements. Je n'ai pas manqué de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès de l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople pour obtenir la cessation de cet état de choses. Je tiens néanmoins à vous faire connaître les procédés inhumains que les Monténégrins continuent à exercer sur nos soldats.

No. 409.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, May 16, 1878.

I HAVE learned from the Minister for Foreign Affairs from an authorized and from a private source likely to be well informed, that there are no Mahometan Agents in Crete.

The insurrection is said to be purely Cretan, but Cretan Committee in Athens sends arms and supplies.

Above sent to Constantinople.

No. 410.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) (Secret.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1878, 7 P.M.

MILITARY authorities here are anxious that by the next mail you should send a sketch of Russian and Turkish troops in the neighbourhood of Constantinople and Bulair, so far as you are able to indicate them from your present knowledge or can find out, in the interval named.

No. 411.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.[a]

(No. 211. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that on the 8th instant certain statemen respecting the alleged movements and concentration of Russian troops, which had been made to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris by a Mr. Abel, who represented himself as being in communication with the Intelligence Department, were telegraphed by his Excellency to this office, and were forwarded from hence to the War Department.

The Secretary of State for War has now informed me that the Intelligence Department of the War Office has no connection in any way with Mr. Abel, who, however, it is stated, had repeatedly applied to that Department, and volunteered to obtain information, showing an unusual pertinacity in his endeavours to gain access to that Department.

I have thought it advisable to furnish your Excellency with these particulars, in case the individual in question should present himself at your Embassy, as he has done in the case of the British Embassy at Paris.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 412.

Vice-Consul Gardner to Consul Ricketts.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 17.)

Poti, April $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

My dear Sir,

I INCLOSE you herewith a document handed to me by two members of the so-called Society of the United Georgian and Armenian Kingdoms, with a request that I would forward the same to head-quarters.

The members of this Society wish to send a deputation to Mr. Layard at Constantinople, and asked me to give them letters of introduction to his Excellency, but I thought it safer to consult you before taking any steps in their affairs, and at the same time to avoid compromising myself as long as England is at peace with Russia. From what I can learn from the members, they are fully organized and prepared at any moment to assert their independence if assured of aid from an European Power. I gave them very little encouragement, told them I was only a commercial Consul, and that you were the Political Agent of England, but just now on leave, in fact, I was not quite sure of my men, as they might have been in Russian service, but after two or three visits I felt convinced they were really what they represented themselves to be. You will oblige by giving me your advice on this serious matter. I have no wish to run any risks, and very reluctantly consented to move in the mystery.

With kind regards to Madame Ricketts and yourself, I remain, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

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[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Layard, Lord A. Loftus, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, and Lord Lyons.

Inclosure in No. 412.

Statement of Georgian and Caucasian Grievances against Russia.

LE programme des réclamations du peuple Georgien.

1. Les habitants du Caucase se divisent par leurs religions en deux parties principales, les Chrétiens et les Mahométans.

2. A la religion Mahométane appartient la majeure partie des montagnards et la race Tartare des Gouvernements de Bakou et d'Elysavethopol. Ces peuples haissent les Russes, à cause de leur religion, par suite des faits historiques et économiques ils ne craignent pas de se révolter à chaque occasion; si l'on leur présente quelque espérance de s'affranchir à l'aide d'une armée étrangère, aussitôt ils prendront les armes contre les Russes.

3. A la religion Chrétienne appartient d'un côté les Georgiens et de l'autre les Arméniens; ce sont les habitants des Gouvernements de Tiflis, de Kutais, et d'Erivan. Ces peuples ont leurs histoires nationales, leurs sentiments patriotiques et une plus haute culture. Ils sont très mécontents du Gouvernement Russe, qui les persécute et les outrage, et qui se tâche par l'anéantissement de leurs langues nationales, par la colonisation Russe dans leur pays, et par le mauvais règlement des rapports entre les nobles et les paysans à demi affranchis, d'exterminer leurs nationalités. Mais comme tous les peuples civilisés ils ont un grand attachement à leurs ménages et ils se tiennent beaucoup à *statu quo*. Voila pourquoi ils se décident difficilement de prendre les armes contre le Gouvernement Russe sans qu'ils ne voient pas une grande Puissance Européenne venir vaincre les Russes et rendre à ces peuples leur liberté.

4. Ces deux peuples, les Georgiens et les Arméniens, sont deux branches d'une race principale. C'est eux qui tenaient et tiendront aussi dans leurs mains le Caucase et la partie septentrionale de l'Asie Mineure. Parmi des deux peuples les Georgiens possèdent le Caucase et comme ils sont plus avancés dès l'antiquité que les autres peuples montagnards du Caucase ceux-ci les suivront dans leur marche.

5. Séparer le Caucase de la Russie n'est possible qu'avec le secours énergique des Georgiens et des Arméniens.

6. Ces deux peuples désirent de se faire renaître leur indépendance et de fonder leurs Etats, qui devraient former les Royautés Unies Georgienne et Arménienne. Ces Royautés Unies contiendraient tout le Caucase et le nord de l'Asie Mineure, avec les valées de Tschorook, Baïbyrth, Erzeroum et Bayazid.

7. Les Royautés Unies Georgienne et Arménienne devraient être sous la protection des Puissances Européennes et avoir pour un Roi constitutionnel quelqu'un de la dynastie Royale d'une grande Puissance, par exemple de la dynastie d'Angleterre, de Savoye, ou de celle des Hohenzollern.

8. Si les Puissances belligérantes de l'Europe veulent séparer le Caucase de la Russie et lui arracher la Mer Noire, leurs armées doivent entrer par cette mer dans la Georgie occidentale, c'est-à-dire, dans le Gouvernement de Koutais, avec l'intention de faire renaître les Royautés Unies Georgienne et Arménienne.

9. Aussitôt que les armées Européennes seront entrées dans la Georgie on devrait instaler un Gouvernement Provisoire qui sera composé de représentants de l'intelligence indigène.

10. Le premier décret du Gouvernement Provisoire des Royautés Unies Georgienne et Arménienne devra régler selon la justice des rapports entre les nobles et les paysans tous libres avec leurs terres, et en donnant aux nobles en recompense des terres qui resteront aux paysans 500 roubles, ou 71*l.* sterling pour chaque lot de paysans.

11. Le Gouvernement Provisoire des Royautés Unies Georgienne et Arménienne aura le droit pour les recompenses des nobles d'emprunter à l'Angleterre la somme de 3,000,000*l.* sterling et il nommera cet emprunt l'emprunt national qui sera payé en partie par les revenues des Royautés Unies et en partie par l'augmentation de l'impot sur les terres des paysans affranchis.

12. Après ce décret les peuples de la Georgie occidentale pourront facilement s'armer contre le Gouvernement Russe avec les secours du Gouvernement Provisoire, si l'Etat combattant contre la Russie le munit des armes et d'autres munitions de guerre.

13. Pour conduire tout cela à bonne fin il sera nécessaire que plusieurs Délégués des Georgiens soient dans les camps des armeés Européennes belligérantes. Il sera nécessaire qu'ils aient avec eux une imprimerie Georgienne pour répandre au moment d'arriver des armées étrangères les proclamations imprimées en leurs langues et par cela attirer à eux le peuple et aider le Gouvernement Provisoire s'organiser et s'installer.

No. 413.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 51. Political.)

Canea, Crete, May 4, 1878.

My Lord,

THE approach of barley-harvest has stimulated the desire of the Moslem refugees to return to their homes. Complaints of the dire distress prevailing amongst them make themselves loudly heard, and they seem to think no sacrifices too great which might extricate them from their present painful position. It is now ten months since they were induced by the intrigues of some pernicious counsellors in Canea, Rethymo, and Candia, as I had the honour to point out at the time, to abandon their homes, and though they were encouraged to return in the autumn to sow their fields, the subsequent arrival of certain Chiefs from Greece made them again the victims of their intriguing friends in the garrison towns. The desire to return once more to their homes has now become so strong that they begin openly to talk of coming to an understanding with their Christian neighbours, who have never ceased to assure them that they are ready to welcome them back again. This is more particularly the case in the eastern half of Crete, where there is little or no animosity between the two religious parties. Indeed, among the peasantry generally, there are few indications of religious hate, which is only kept alive and fostered by the Moslem inhabitants of the towns, who by their ceaseless endeavours to sow dissension between the rival communities are the bane of the island. Finding that they can no longer restrain the impulse of the peasantry to return home, the Mussulmans of Candia have deputed a notorious leader of influence among them, a certain Mustafa Paputsali, to come to Canea and solicit Costaki Pasha to send detachments of troops into the country districts in order to guarantee the safety of the returning Moslem peasantry. His Excellency set out immediately in a Government steamer, and, taking Mustafa Paputsali with him, has gone round to the southern coast, where he will visit one or two of the places where the Mussulman element is more considerable, and on his return he will visit Candia and Rethymo.

It is uncertain what decision his Excellency will arrive at. There can be no doubt that the entire Christian population of that part of the island is quite disposed to give a welcome to their Moslem brethren, and that they can go back to their farms with or without the protection of soldiers. But if the Vali decides to send troops there will be great danger of a collision occurring between them and certain Chiefs who, now that these districts are clear of troops, will not see their return with indifference, though any act of hostility they might be tempted to commit would be viewed with displeasure by the bulk of the inhabitants. Costaki Pasha is thus face to face with a grave difficulty, and in forming his resolution he will be subjected to the pressure of opinion prevalent among the officers and leading town Mussulmans, which is strongly pronounced in favour of the military occupation of that part of the country. Considering the desire evinced by the Christians themselves to see their Moslem neighbours back again, I cannot believe they are running any risk in trusting to the good faith of the Christians, who have given the best proof of their friendly disposition by abstaining from destroying their property during their long absence. I am assured on the best Moslem authority that, in the majority of those districts, the property of the Mussulmans remains uninjured, and that less than a sixth part of their crops has been eaten down by cattle. Only in the country round Candia is much damage to property or growing crops apparent, and that is chiefly attributable to the injury inflicted by the town Moslems, and to the reprisals consequent thereon. In this half of the island the damage to property is relatively greater, but the majority of the Moslems will find their farms comparatively uninjured. Kuntanos, the seat of Government in Selino, has, indeed, been pillaged and the surrounding country overrun by flocks, but the former was the work of zaptiés and Moslems, as I had the honour to report in my despatches Nos. 2 and 4 of the 7th and 13th January. The repatriation of the Moslem peasantry would certainly encounter some opposition in these western districts, though even here I see no insuperable difficulties in the way of reconciliation, which only an unimportant minority would oppose. If the Porte would accept foreign mediation in this important matter, I entertain no sort of doubt that the Christians would eagerly welcome it, and would faithfully respect any arrangement arrived at; for throughout this struggle their leading idea has been to gain the sympathy of the Great Powers, and particularly of England, and the predominance of this idea partly explains the respect they have shown towards the property of the fugitive Mussulmans.

I find that the Government has still outside the fortresses a battalion and a half of regular troops. These are posted in two detachments, one on the north and another on

the south of the narrow part of the island, here only ten miles broad, dividing the easternmost district of Sitia from the rest. Sitia is the only part where the Mussulmans have not forsaken their homes, and in the two districts of Pedeada and Staghios Myron, lying respectively south-east and south-west of Candia, the Kaimakams still remain, as well as some of the Moslem inhabitants, whose families are lodged in Candia.

The "Panhellenion" has landed another cargo of guns and ammunition on the southern coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 414.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 52. Political. Confidential.)

Canea, Crete, May 4, 1878.

My Lord,

IT becomes my duty to give your Lordship a less favourable report than usual of the way in which Costaki Pasha is conducting the affairs of this vilayet. I observe with regret that his Excellency is losing the esteem of the more respectable classes in consequence of the relations which he has formed with a disreputable clique of Mussulmans who seem to be entangling him in the meshes of their intrigues. Nearly every Governor-General who has administered this province has fallen more or less under the influence of these men, who derive much of their importance from their patron, Hamid Bey, who for eight successive years was next in authority to the Vali in his capacity of Mussulman Counsellor, and who has again been appointed by Costaki Pasha to fill that important office provisionally. I remarked to your Lordship more than a month ago that the Vali was becoming unpopular with the Mahommedan part of the population because he seemed opposed to the aggressive policy of the then Commander-in-chief, Osman Nouri Pasha, and refused to allow the gates of the town to be shut against the Christians. By taking these influential leaders into his confidence his Excellency insured their support, but by so doing he is gradually forfeiting the esteem not of the Christians only, but of the more upright Mussulmans also, who know by experience the unscrupulous character of the clique by which he is surrounded. When Costaki Pasha was appointed Commissioner in Crete I took the liberty of warning him against these men, and both he and his colleague, Salim Effendi, recognized the injurious influence wielded by them, and assured me that they would soon see their way to banishing them the island. My colleagues agree with me in considering the confidence reposed in them by the Governor-General as of ill augury for the future good government of the country. Their pernicious influence on public affairs has frequently been pointed out by me during the past five years, and they have never yet met with a Governor equal to the task of effectually counteracting their intrigues, which extend to every part of the island. Costaki Pasha has too much good sense to become altogether their tool, as some of his predecessors have been, but his Excellency seems to me to be in constant dread of incurring the displeasure of the Porte, which detracts from his independence of character, and this failing, too commonly observable in Christian functionaries, has perhaps tempted him to lean for support on men who, before this, as his Excellency is well aware, have found the means of getting rid of Governors obnoxious to them. His Excellency Réouf Pasha is not ignorant of their devices.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S. *May 6.*—Costaki Pasha having returned from his tour round the island, I have just had a conversation with him, in the course of which I took the liberty of deprecating the relations he seemed to have formed with the persons indicated in the present despatch, as he was thereby in danger of alienating the good opinion of the sounder part of the community. His Excellency assured me that he was far from becoming the dupe of such men, who, in their dealings with him were careful to be on their good behaviour, and that not wishing to break off all relations with them, he was desirous only to *ménager* them. I am willing to believe that is the true explanation of their relations, but in what I have written above I am correctly expressing the general feeling on the subject.

T. B. S.

No. 415.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 43. Political.)

Canea, Crete, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

COSTAKI PASHA has been much encouraged by the evidences which he everywhere met with on his recent tour of a desire for a reconciliation between the two religious sections of the community. In the eastern half of the island that feeling is universal, and his Excellency was solicited by the inhabitants of more than one district to send soldiers to escort the Mussulmans who are longing to reap the harvest. He considers their repugnance to return without the protection afforded by troops to be invincible, and he quite agrees with me that their fears are inspired by their brethren in the towns, whose influence over them it is impossible to counteract.

The Pasha does not appear to have come to any decision as to the sending of troops, and he acknowledges that there are five or six influential Chiefs in those parts who are in favour of offering opposition to their entry amongst them. When I told his Excellency that I imagined that less than a sixth part of the Mussulmans' crops had been destroyed, he assured me that they were almost entirely uninjured.

I was glad to learn from Costaki Pasha that the entire Moslem population of Candia had been disarmed, a step due to the energy of the resident Brigadier-General Salim Pasha, and he expressed the hope that the Commander-in-chief, Salih Pasha, would quickly follow so excellent an example.

Confidence is being gradually re-established in this neighbourhood, some of the Christian villagers, who had fled on the outbreak of hostilities on the 24th February, having returned to their homes, and dispossessed the Moslem families who had squatted on their lands. The Vali remarked that it was thus become necessary to extend the present narrow boundaries of the country held by the Government in order to give shelter to the ejected Mussulmans, and that it was in contemplation to occupy Alikianu, at present held by a large force of insurgents. Such a step is, unhappily, likely to become the signal for the renewal of hostilities, and the reason assigned for it seems a flimsy one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 416.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 593.)

Therapia, May 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter addressed to me by delegates from the Mussulman and Catholic populations of Podgoritza, Spuz, Zabiach, Antivari, Dulcigno, and other places in Northern Albania, protesting against the annexation of their country to Montenegro, and asking for the interference of England to save them from that fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Petition from Mussulman Inhabitants of Podgoritza, Spuz, &c.

A son Excellence Mr. Layard, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, &c., &c., &c.

Excellence,

NOUS soussignés, mandataires des populations des districts de Podgoritza, Spuz, Jabiack, Antivari, Dulcigné, et des arrondissements de Groda (Malissia), Kilmind, Khot, et de Castrat de la Province de Skodra, avons l'honneur de recourir à votre Excellence qui représent dans cette capitale Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, la gracieuse Souveraine de 100,000,000 de Musulmans, et la gardienne vigilante de la foi des Traités internationaux, pour lui exposer ce qui suit :

Nos voisins, les Monténégrins, par leurs incursions continuelles dans nos villes, nous ont depuis des siècles obligés de vivre sur un pied de défense perpétuelle et nous ont ainsi enlevé toute sécurité par leurs agissements sauvages.

Nous, Latins et Musulmans, frères depuis des siècles vivant en communauté d'intérêts et d'usages, nous nous étions unis pour résister aux actes de brigandage, et avions jusqu'ici versé des fleuves de sang pour protéger nos villes et nos villages. Or, aujourd'hui nous apprenons par les journaux, que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, ne pouvant résister à la pression de la Russie, s'est vu réduit à consentir à notre annexion aux sauvages Monténégrins, nos ennemis depuis quatre siècles.

Il est de fait que parmi nous, il y a fort peu de Slaves qui appartiennent aux districts de Podgoritza et d'Antivari, et les neuf-dixièmes de notre population sont Musulmans et Latins; outre donc, qu'il n'existe aucune relation entre nous et les Monténégrins au point de vue de la religion, la grande majorité parmi nous est Albanaise, tant sous le rapport de l'origine que sous celui de la langue. Nos villes et nos villages, nos campagnes et nos champs respiraient jusqu'à un certain point l'aisance et le bien être; les Monténégrins, sans tenir aucun compte de la conclusion de l'armistice et au mépris de toutes les lois de la paix, de l'humanité et de la civilisation, ont fait irruption dans nos propriétés et nos jardins d'oliviers, commis des déprédations pour une valeur de 100,000 livres, maltraité notre évêque pour le jeter ensuite aux fers, brûlés nos temples, réduit à la servitude militaire tous nos compatriotes depuis l'âge de 15 ans jusqu'à celui de 70 ans, de fait inouï dans l'histoire des peuples civilisés, traîné sur les champs de bataille même jusqu'à nos femmes.

Le Monténégro a ainsi une fois de plus justifié sa réputation de sauvagerie.

Le cœur compatissant de Sa Majesté la Reine, et les sentiments d'humanité du grand peuple Anglais, pourront-ils consentir à ce que des pays cultivés soient transformés en un vaste champ de ruine et de dévastation, à ce que des populations civilisées soient placées sous le joug de hordes barbares, à ce qu'une race libre soit condamnée à une oppression éternelle?

Nous avons toujours professé la plus haute gratitude à l'égard du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman qui, par son administration sage et équitable, nous a permis de conserver depuis cinq siècles nos coutumes et notre religion, notre langue et notre nationalité; nous venons donc protester à la face des Grandes Puissances contre l'annexion de notre pays au Monténégro.

Si l'Europe, par un sentiment de bienveillance et de compassion à notre égard, désire nous faire jouir d'un plus haut dégré de civilisation que celui auquel nous sommes parvenus aujourd'hui, et veut assurer notre progrès et notre sécurité, comment peut-elle permettre notre annexion à un pays qui n'a pour toute qualité historique que sa barbarie traditionnelle?

Le Monténégro ne s'est pas emparé par les armes de nos pays, mais il y a fait irruption par le brigandage; dans ces conditions les lois des nations civilisées exigeraient l'évacuation par ses bandes de notre pays, or par quel déni de justice vient-on de décider d'annexer au Monténégro des territories d'une superficie encore plus considérable que ceux déjà envahis par elles?

En résumé, nous voyons le danger qui nous menace et au lieu de mourir demain dans l'humiliation et la servitude nous préférons être anéantis aujourd'hui en défendant notre honneur et nos libertés, et nous avons pris le parti de ne pas nous laisser asservir par le Monténégro.

Si notre progrès moral et matériel et notre salut font l'objet des préoccupations de l'Europe, nous sommes prêts à faire dans ce sens tous les sacrifices qui nous seront imposés.

Les Gouvernements qui ont toujours contribué à répandre les bienfaits de la civilisation et qui sont au courant de la conduite inqualifiable du Monténégro, n'attribueront pas, nous en sommes convaincus, la protestation que nous faisons contre un mode de l'annexion peu commun dans les annales du droit public à des sentiments de haine séculaire.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence voudra bien, avant la réunion du Congrès, soumettre la présente requête aux pieds de Sa Majesté la Reine, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 8 Mai, 1878.

No. 417.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, May 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that no particular movements of Russian troops have taken place since those mentioned in my despatch No. 15 of the 27th ultimo.

Notice was given to the railway authorities a few days ago to prepare for the passage of ninety trains with Russian soldiers coming from the south of Roman and bound for Odessa; up to the present, however, none have arrived; the troops to be moved were supposed to be those of General Zimmermann.

The hospitals are gradually being removed from the town, at least three houses will, however, be retained, and twenty hospital tents have already been erected at Copon, where they were last summer; the Russian field-hospital No. 45 remains here, whilst the staff of the other two, Nos. 81 and 74, are leaving; it is rumoured that their destination is to be San Stefano.

Sick continue to pass through this regularly, not less than one sanitary train arrives daily, and generally more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 418.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berne, May 13, 1878.*

IN conversing with the President on the subject of the new Swiss Tariff, I remarked that it was unfortunate that the increased Federal outlay, for which it was sought to provide by higher Customs duties, should be mainly occasioned by military expenditure. M. Schenk replied that such was unquestionably the case, but in increasing her armaments Switzerland had simply followed the example set by her most powerful neighbours, and principally by Germany; and how else could she hope to protect herself? She could no longer depend alone on the safeguard of the Treaties that guaranteed her existence, for experience had shown how little Treaty engagements were respected on occasion. "And for this reason," added his Excellency, "it is impossible for us not to feel that at this present moment Great Britain, in taking her stand on Treaty rights, is acting as the champion of all the smaller and weaker States of Europe."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 419.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 17.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, May 17, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Rear-Admiral Commerell.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 419.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gallipoli, May 16, 1878, 6 P.M.*

AUTHENTIC news that 20,000 Bulgarians and Russians, with guns, are (at) Adrianople (and) Demolika. On Guirmurjina, Did (Eagatch?), and Kara-agatch 10,000 plundering and killing the Turks as they advance. I have informed Commander-in-Chief.

No. 420.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Mr. Blunt to-day:—

"You had better remain for the present in Thessaly. I will endeavour to carry out your recommendations.

"Said Pasha, recently President of the Danube Commission, has been appointed Civil Governor of Thessaly. I have seen him, and have received assurances from him that he will deal gently and liberally with Christians. He will leave immediately, and I think it desirable that you should communicate personally with him."

No. 421.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 473.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1878.*

I HAVE sent following figures to Admiral. I learn on good authority that the Russians are going to deepen channel between (several groups unintelligible) Buyuk-Chekmedjé and the sea to a uniform depth of four feet. Workmen engaged at Constantinople have already gone for that purpose. It is presumed that it is for torpedoes.

No. 422.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 474. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY read yesterday a note to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs (three groups undecipherable), giving a copy, of which the following is the substance:—

"Austrian Government is informed that among the refugees whom the Prince of Montenegro is about to send back to Herzegovina are 6,000 men enrolled as battalions of regulars. This circumstance complicates the return of the refugees in general, which would now require employment of an important sub-division of forces for a considerable time, and at great expense. Such being the case Austria will continue to support emigrants. But, moreover, other duties are imposed upon Austria-Hungary for the security of her provinces bordering upon Bosnia and Herzegovina, as regards the strategical advantages which the entrance of Austrian troops into those provinces would assure to Austria in consequence of new complications raised by Servia and Montenegro. The interests of Austria and Turkey are identical, as is proved by present attitude of Russia. Austrian Government had proposed through General Ignatieff the restriction of the proposed limits for Bulgaria. Russia refuses absolutely to consent to the proposal, and will only agree to a division of Bulgaria into two equal autonomous Principalities, comprising the whole of the territory assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of San Stefano. She, moreover, proposed the division between Servia and Montenegro of the strip of land between them assigned by Treaty to the Porte; and consequently the complete isolation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the rest of the Ottoman territory.

"If Austria only wished for occupation of Bosnia, she would accept this proposal; but she desires to safeguard her interests and those of the Porte. She, therefore, maintains in face of Russia her opinion as to the necessity of a great reduction in the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano. To effect this a serious understanding is necessary between the Governments of Vienna and Constantinople. Porte has nothing to hope from the moderation of Russia.

"The proceedings of Servia and Montenegro may prove equally prejudicial to Turkey and Austria. Montenegro cannot be held in check from Cattaro, and is only vulnerable from the side of Bosnia. Porte can facilitate (?) that side the position of Austria. If she refuses, it will render most difficult co-operation of Austria with England in favour of Turkey.

"The repugnance of the Sultan to cede Bosnia and Herzegovina can be understood; but there is no question of cession, and nothing prevents His Majesty from completely reserving his sovereign rights over the provinces in question."

Count Zichy also communicated yesterday the substance of this note to the Sultan and Prime Minister, and he tells me that it was favourably received. He has urgently requested me to support his proposal without delay, and I consider myself authorized by your Lordship's instructions to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the Porte.

No. 423.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 476.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 16, 1878.

A GENERAL movement of Russian army at San Stefano took place this afternoon north, in the direction of Sircos. An aide-de-camp of the Sultan has just been to inform me that a body of Cossacks advanced to-day upon Piringli-keui, and summoned the Turkish troops there to withdraw. His Majesty has asked my advice as to the course to be taken, which I am unable to give. From the information which reaches me from various sources, there is reason to suspect that the Russians are meditating an advance upon Constantinople and the Bosphorus.

I have informed the Admiral. Would it not be well that the fleet should be nearer?

No. 424.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 478.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Captain Fife:—

"Bulgarians and Russians, estimated at 20,000, committing great massacres and destroying about Demotica. Are advancing on Gounouldjina, Governor of which asks for instructions of Governor here, who replied, 'Resist in defile. Ask Constantinople.' 300 soldiers at Gounouldjina; arms and ammunition much needed."

No. 425.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 479.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1878.

PRIME Minister has received information confirming my telegram of last night as to an approaching movement of Russians upon Constantinople and Bosphorus. It is stated that three days' provisions were yesterday served out to the Russians by General Todleben's order. Mr. Asourpa, a British subject who owns a farm six miles from Eyoub, the northern suburb of Constantinople, has been ordered by the Russian authorities to prepare for its immediate occupation by 5,000 troops.

Porte is, I am assured, taking active measures to bring at once to Constantinople all available troops from Varna, Volo, and elsewhere.

Prince Labanow has been pressing the surrender of Varna, Shumla, and Batoum, without holding out any threats or saying anything about an ultimatum sent to Admiral.

No. 426.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 480.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1878.

GENERAL DICKSON rode yesterday with Baker Pasha round lines from Sweet Waters to beyond Daoud Pasha. His report of condition of defence is far from satisfactory. He states that Turks have only 54 field-guns and that no heavy guns are in position although good works are constructed. The lines are also too extensive for the forces now occupying them. He thinks that in the event of an attack the Turks would have great difficulty in giving (?) an effectual resistance. He confirms my previous telegrams as to movement of yesterday in Russian camp at San Stefano. General Skobeleff is now between San Georges and Boglas Keui with 20,000 men and 4 batteries, and orders were given the day before yesterday for the men to be supplied with three days' rations, and they were under orders to move at once on notice. The lines (?) between Sweet Waters and Black Sea under Fuad Pasha have 30 field-guns, and have same defects as those above-mentioned.

No. 427.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 16, 1878.

IT is almost certain that the Russian officers have now purchased the steamer "State of California," described in Naval Attaché's letter No. 146 of 18th April. She cannot be ready for sea under a month.

No. 428.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 16, 1878.

THE Hungarian Chamber of Deputies has this day voted the sixty millions credit by a large majority.

No. 429.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 16, 1878.

IN speaking of Bosnian question, Count Andrassy said to-day that there was no intention of occupying it contrary to the wish of the Porte.

He wishes the Turkish Government themselves to express a desire that Austrian corps should be somewhere near Mitrovitza, by which Servia and Montenegro would be held in check.

When I said that occupation and annexation being practically synonomous terms, Porte would not be likely to make such a request, he answered that Austrian Government would engage to act in Bosnia as might be determined in Congress, and that he is far from desirous of annexing the province, if such arrangements can be made as will insure tranquillity under the authority of the Porte.

No. 430.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, May* 16, 1878.

HER Majesty's Consul at Galatz reports Russians are making four batteries at Sulina for 12 guns in all, and that they have asked the Commission on the subject,

but that leave will be refused. He likewise reports their having sent 40 guns Toultcha, and having 4 heavy guns in position at Ibraila, and concentrating a force there.

About Bucharest they are collecting 5,000 train carts, with which they might easily move 20,000 men, and this has alarmed this Government considerably; but it is possible they are intended ultimately for Bulgaria.

No. 431.

Mr. Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Santiago, May 16, 1878.*

THE Government of Chili would have no objection to Her Majesty's ship "Liffey," or other men-of-war stationed in a Chilian port, supplying stores of any kind to Her Majesty's ships so long as the rules of neutrality, as understood by England, were not infringed; but should stores be supplied from a vessel like "Nereus," such would not be conformable to neutrality, and Chili would be constrained to object.

No. 432.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1878.*

I HEAR frigate "Pojarski" and the clipper "Djigit" proceeded to sea from Cronstadt on the 13th May, supposed to be bound for the Pacific. "Petropaulovsk" frigate fully equipped and now in Cronstadt roadstead.

No. 433.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 118. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1878.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF leaves to-morrow morning. He has requested me to say that he hopes that all the difficulties mentioned by you will be removed; that the Congress may meet without loss of time; that its prompt meeting appears indispensable to calm present tension in Europe; and that it is his intention to urge this on Prince Bismarck, whom he will see on his way to London. Formula for the meeting of the Congress which is known to your Lordship has been accepted at Berlin and St. Petersburgh. Count Schouvaloff said he entertained the best hope of amicable understanding with England.

Strictest secrecy has been and is preserved here in regard to these negotiations.

No. 434.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 17, 1878.*

COLONEL SIBORNE to your Lordship:—

"The general meeting of the Danubian Commission has not been held, as none of the non-resident Commissioners have come to Galatz. As regards Turkish demand for advances on account of our debt, Austrian and Italian Commissioners say they have no instructions, and therefore can give no opinion. German Commissioner has written from Bucharest to the effect that he is against the proposal. Russian Commissioner reserves his vote. No opinion has been expressed by the French Commissioner. I will report further by messenger."

No. 435.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 17, 1878.*

I HAVE received the following from Mr. Blunt, dated Lamia, to-day:—

"Arrived here yesterday. Shall return to Volo this evening.

"The Nomash and I, after two meetings with principal refugees from Thessaly, and a noisy demonstration by some insurgent bands against our efforts, have succeeded in persuading most of them to return to their homes."

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 436.

Sir C. Wyke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, May 17, 1878.*

JUST learnt from a reliable source, but in strict confidence, that considerable armaments are taking place in the German ports, and in that of Kiel, on the land as well as on the sea side.

First squadron of iron-clads ready for sea in eight days, second in fourteen days, and first and second reserves also being got ready.

No. 437.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

OUR information from St. Petersburgh is so inconsistent with the hostile action at Constantinople that I think there must be some mistake. Keep informed of what you hear as to military movements.

No. 438.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1878.*

I APPROVE the instructions sent by you to Mr. Blunt to remain in Thessaly, as reported in your telegram No. 472 of yesterday.

No. 439.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fraser.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1878.*

ASCERTAIN, confidentially, whether Chinese Government are disposed to sell to Her Majesty's Government the four gun-vessels built in England for them, which left this country for China in the years 1876 and 1877.

No. 440.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1878, 11·50 P.M.*

PLEASE tell Count Schouvaloff Russian troops are advancing on Constantinople and producing great alarm.

Serious danger of collision unless orders are sent to restrain them.

No. 441.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 628. Secret.)

Foreign Office, May 17, 1878.

Sir,

THE information received by Her Majesty's Government from St. Petersburgh is so inconsistent with the hostile action of the Russian Generals at Constantinople, as reported by your Excellency, that I think there must be some mistake.

I request that your Excellency will keep us accurately informed as to what you hear with regard to military movements.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 442.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 630.)

Foreign Office, May 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of your having instructed Mr. Blunt to remain for the present in Thessaly, under the circumstances reported in your telegram No. 472 of yesterday's date.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 443.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 329.)

Foreign Office, May 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Count Schouvaloff that according to reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government, it would appear that the Russian troops are advancing upon Constantinople, and that great alarm is being excited by these movements.

You may add that serious danger of collision between the Turkish and Russian forces in the neighbourhood of Constantinople may arise, unless orders are sent to restrain the latter from movements which are likely to occasion alarm and anxiety to the inhabitants of the city.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 444.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Jussy, April 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, a return showing the number of sick in the Russian military hospitals in this town during the months of February and March, with the number of deaths, as also the nature of the diseases of those remaining in hospital on 13th April (1st April o.s.).

This return is taken from two furnished by the Russian Consulate here and privately shown to me; it does not include the temporary hospital belonging to the Russian Red Cross at the railway station, in which, however, the sick never remain above a day whilst being transferred from one sanitary train to another, nor does it include, I believe, the small hospital built by the same Society just above the town. As I have already reported the Russians are gradually evacuating the numerous houses which they had hired in this town and converted into hospitals; by the 5th proximo they will nearly all be vacated, and, as is shown by the inclosed return, No. 81 has already been closed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 444.

RETURN of Sick and Wounded in the Russian Military Hospitals at Jassy during the months of February and March (o.s.), 1878.

For the month of February, viz., 13th February to 12th March (n.s.).

No. of Hospital.	In Hospital on February 1/13.	Died in February.	Daily Average of Sick.	Daily Average of Typhus.	Daily Average of Deaths.	In Hospital on March 1/13.
45	576	64	377·8	99·4	2·3	488
74	536	74	238	108·7	2·7	422
81	440*	164	171·2	55·3	5·8	275
Total	1,470	302	472	263·4	10·8	1,185

* Of these 440 there were 165 Russians and 275 Turks.

For the month of March, viz., from 13th March to 12th April (n.s.).

No. of Hospital.	In Hospital on March 1/13.	Entered during Month.	Died.	In Hospital on April 1/13.	Daily Average in Hospital.	Daily Average of Deaths.
45 Russians ..	430	739	63	523	530	2
45 Turks ..	0	1	..	10		
74 Russians ..	585	456	60	354	441	..
74 Turks ..		93	1	26		2
81	275	*	*	*	*	..
Total	1,099	1,227	114	913	971	4

* Vide separate Return.

Amongst the 739 Russians who entered Hospital No. 45 during the month are included the sick from No. 81, which was closed during the month.

I am at a loss to understand the discrepancy in the two returns as to the men in the hospital on 1st March, but I give them as received.

The following table gives the diseases of the men in hospital on 1st April (13th April n.s.).

	Hospital No. 45.		Hospital No. 74.	
	Russians.	Turks.	Russians.	Turks.
Wounded	16	..	20	1
Fever	82	..	26	..
Dysentery, &c.	8	..	7	..
Typhus	248	..	218	3
Syphilis	82	..	23	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	..
Diseases of the eyes	2	..	1	..
Various	65	..	59	22
Total	523	10*	354	26

* Not given separately.

The return for Hospital No. 81 from 1st to 15th March (13th to 27th March N.S.) was given separately and in a greater detail as follows:—

	Russians.		Turks.	
	Officers.	Soldiers.	Officers.	Soldiers.
In hospital on March 1	6	132	2	135
Entered up to „ 15	4	78	2	19
	10	210	4	154
How disposed of—				
Recovered	1	54	..	9
Transferred	2	13	1	28
Died	..	7	..	17
In hospital on March 15	7	136	3	100
Total	10	210	4	154

	No.
Daily average in hospital	237½
„ „ of deaths	1⅛

The diseases of the men in hospital No. 81 on 15th (27th) March were—

	Russians.		Turks.	
	Officers.	Soldiers.	Officers.	Soldiers.
Wounded	..	10	..	3
Frostbites	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	1	..	14
Fever	..	25	..	19
Typhus	..	60	1	36
Ophthalmia	..	7	..	2
Small-pox	..	..	..	1
Inflammation of the lungs	4	15	1	5
Phthisis	..	3	..	2
Syphilis	2	7	..	2
Outward diseases ("maladies externes")	1	7	1	16
Total	7	136	3	100

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM, *Vice-Consul.*

Jassy, April 25, 1878.

No. 445.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Jassy, April* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that on the evening of the 23rd instant some men of the Russian reserves, with 44P on shoulder-strap, came in by road from Ungheni, also some men with 2PH (?) on shoulder-strap have come in. On the afternoon of the 25th two trains left for the south with Russian soldiers, 20P on shoulder-strap; these men took with them a number of horses, ammunition-carts, and baggage, but I do not believe the number of men reached 800. A few men are constantly passing by rail to join their regiments, but the number is insignificant. Some horses for the military train have also passed by road. I believe the number of Russians now here certainly does not exceed 1,000, if as many.

I have entered into these details as I see in the English papers repeated accounts of the number of Russian troops passing through and stationed in this town. I have also seen it stated that they are fortifying the town; this statement is certainly incorrect, and though I have made and continue to make constant inquiries as to the military movements I cannot obtain reliable information of any having taken place during the last days besides those I have had the honour to report to your Lordship; there are naturally many rumours current in the town, but all those I have been able to follow up have proved devoid of foundation; moreover, if any such large movements of troops were going on a person resident in the town as I am could not fail to see them. To-day, however, when I saw the Prefect of the district I told him of the reports which were current in foreign papers, and he most distinctly stated that he was unaware of any Russian military movements having taken place in his district beyond those of which I had heard and now report to your Lordship.

I heard a few days ago that the Russian Commandant at Roman had entered into a contract for a supply of provisions for a large force but I have not been able to obtain any confirmation of the report, or information of the arrival of any number of men there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

P.S.—I learn that the exact number of men who left on 25th was 823.

E. W. B.

No. 446.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 167. Political.)

My Lord, *Alexandria, May* 9, 1878.

HER Majesty's Consul at Port Saïd reports to me by telegraph the arrival there yesterday of Her Majesty's ships "Minotaur" and "Defence."

Her Majesty's ship "Pallas" is lying in this harbour.

The presence of these two powerful ships at Port Saïd, and the expected arrival of a large number of transports conveying troops from India, has provoked considerable excitement here and given rise to absurd rumours, with which I need not trouble your Lordship, that it is our intention to occupy Egypt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

P.S.—I hear that a German man-of-war has also arrived at Port Saïd.

C. V.

No. 447.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 527.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 13, 1878.

THE semi-official article of yesterday's "Agence Russe," which I herewith inclose, states, with reference to Count Schouvaloff's mission, that there are only two possible solutions of the Eastern difficulty.

The one is the dismemberment and partition of the Ottoman Empire; the other its maintenance in a perfectly harmless state of existence, its Government supported by the tribute of the autonomous Christian populations of the Balkan Peninsula.

It is reasoned in this article that at the present moment the partition of Turkey would be a dangerous undertaking, and that it would be wiser to allow the Eastern Question still further to ripen until such time as little risk will attend the process of the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire. The second alternative, therefore, must be adopted; but it is essential for its success that the autonomy of the Christians be real—materially as well as politically—so that the delimitation of their territory should be such as to contain within it the elements of prosperity.

The Ottoman Government, if it profits by its late lesson, will be a gainer by the change; but if not, will be relatively weaker than now, for the Christian populations after the years of rest given by the proposed compromise will have made material progress, and the nations of Europe will also have advanced in their knowledge of their respective interests with respect to the final settlement of the Eastern question.

The article concludes by expressing the hope that Europe will at length render justice to the moderation shown by Russia, and that Austria may be charged with the admiais-

tration of Bosnia, whilst England, in order to save the Ottoman Empire from immediate dismemberment, may be willing to come to an understanding with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 447.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of May 12, 1878.

S'IL est complètement inutile de chercher à connaître les éléments de négociations qu'apporte le Comte Schouvaloff, puisque pour le moment encore il est seul à les connaître avec le Cabinet de Londres, on peut du moins établir le terrain sur lequel elles peuvent s'engager. Il n'y a en effet que deux solutions possibles au problème Oriental. Il n'est pas au pouvoir des hommes de faire quoi que ce soit contre la nature et la force des choses, qui ne comporte actuellement en Turquie que la chute de l'Empire Ottoman et, par suite, son démembrement et son partage, ou bien une transformation calculée de manière à maintenir d'une part cet Empire à l'état inoffensif pour tous, mais cependant viable, et à délivrer les populations Chrétiennes des Balkans de son impossible administration. L'autonomie de celles-ci pratiquée par un Gouvernement indépendant et national, la souveraineté de celui-là maintenue par le tribut annuel que ces dernières lui payeront, voilà les seules conditions possibles d'une solution sérieuse et de quelque durée du problème actuel, étant écarté le remède empirique de l'amputation. Sur les détails, les voies et moyens d'exécution de ces deux solutions, les opinions et les intérêts peuvent être divergents; sur la nécessité absolue de choisir entre les deux, il ne peut y avoir qu'un avis. Pour ceux que n'effrayent ni les compétitions jalouses, ni les complications, ni les luttes de longue durée, pour ceux enfin qui sont pour une politique d'aventures, le second moyen paraîtra sans doute préférable. Les esprits sages néanmoins, qui savent réfléchir et prévoir, reculeront tous devant la difficulté et les hasards d'une pareille solution. Dans l'état actuel des choses en Turquie, aussi bien que parmi les populations Chrétiennes et parmi les Puissances intéressées elles-mêmes, le partage de l'Empire Ottoman serait aussi dangereux qu'impraticable. Si omnipotents que puissent être l'intelligence des hommes d'état et la force d'une nation ce qu'elles ne peuvent pas, c'est de faire mûrir une question. Or, la question d'Orient—nous le répétons—tant par le fait de la Turquie et des populations Chrétiennes, que par celui des Puissances elles-mêmes, n'est pas encore prête à être résolue par le démembrement et le partage, sinon artificiellement, et, par conséquent, d'une manière factice, peu durable et dangereux. Sur ce point il nous semble difficile que les hommes d'Etat d'Angleterre, de même que ceux d'Autriche et de Russie, ne se trouvent d'accord, comme le furent jadis leurs devanciers, pour ajourner et reculer autant que possible la liquidation définitive de l'Empire Ottoman. Cela étant, il ne reste plus que la seconde solution pour laquelle également il peut y avoir divergence de vues et d'intérêts sur les détails d'exécution, mais non pas sur les mesures d'ensemble, car qui veut le but, doit vouloir les moyens.

Pour que les populations Chrétiennes puissent réellement s'administrer, se régir elles-mêmes, pour qu'elles puissent vivre heureuses et prospères, c'est-à-dire, s'adonner librement à la culture de leurs champs, à l'industrie, au commerce, à tout enfin ce qui enrichit les hommes et les rend conservateurs et amis de l'ordre, il faut nécessairement et que leur autonomie soit politiquement, matériellement réelle et que la délimitation de leurs territoires soit telle qu'elle comporte et contienne les éléments d'une pareille prospérité. L'Empire Ottoman lui-même pourra trouver alors dans ce nouvel état de choses les moyens non seulement de contracter un nouveau bail avec la vie, mais même d'améliorer sa situation économique et financière, d'abord parce que, débarrassé des préoccupations et des soucis journaliers, des répressions forcées à l'intérieur et des complications au dehors, il pourra s'occuper plus sérieusement de sa propre réorganisation, du développement des inépuisables richesses englouties dans les immenses territoires qui lui resteront encore, puis, parce que les populations Chrétiennes, débarrassées de leur côté de la rapacité de ces vers rougeurs, de ces sangsues appelés Pachas Turcs, qui les ont exploitées jusqu'ici, elles pourront payer le tribut régulièrement, l'augmenter même et faire profiter la Turquie du développement de leur prospérité. Que si, néanmoins, les Turcs se montrant définitivement réfractaires à toute civilisation, ce nouvel essai venait après un certain nombre d'années à se montrer encore impuissant, et bien alors dans cet entre-temps tout et tous, excepté eux, auront progressé: la question d'Orient vers sa maturité, les populations Chrétiennes dans leur développement moral et économique, les Puissances Européennes dans l'étude et la compréhension de leurs intérêts réciproques en vue de la solution définitive à intervenir. Mais d'ici là l'Europe aura pu du moins jouir de nouveau de plusieurs années de tranquillité et de paix.

C'est précisément parce que le Gouvernement Russe, lorsqu'il n'avait plus qu'un pas à faire pour entrer à Constantinople où tout l'y sollicitait, a su arrêter encore une fois ses troupes victorieuses juste à la limite au delà de laquelle cette solution sage, prudente, tempérée devenait impossible et cédait la place à l'autre, peut-être plus bruyante, mais à coup sûr plus dangereuse pour la paix générale, que viendra un moment—et il est peut-être prochain—où l'Europe, revenu de ses jugements passionnés et préconçus de la première heure, saura rendre justice à sa modération et à sa sagesse. Réunie en Congrès, l'Europe voudra certainement compléter alors l'œuvre d'apaisement et de solution équitable entreprise par la Russie en chargeant l'Autriche de l'administration de la Bosnie, de toutes les provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie la plus difficile à se régir elle-même par suite de la diversité de ses races et de l'arrogance de ses Beys. C'est également parce que le Gouvernement Anglais doit être non moins désireux que la Russie d'éviter le démembrement définitif de l'Empire Ottoman, qu'une entente entre Londres et St. Pétersbourg nous a toujours paru—si également voulue des deux parts—non seulement désirable, mais encore possible.

No. 448.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 18.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, May 18, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copies of two telegrams from the Naval Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, dated 17th May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 448.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Ismid, May 17, 1878, 12·55 P.M.*

IF troops are now landed at Gallipoli, transport will not be found so plentiful as it was before February. About 300 country waggons could be collected with three days' notice. A large horse fair will be held on the 2nd June, 12 miles from Chanak, where probably 800 horses might be bought, more bespoke.

Ambassador informed me yesterday that he heard on good authority that the Russians are going to deepen the channel between the lagoon at Buyuk-Chekmedje and the sea, to an uniform depth of 4 feet. Workmen (engaged?) at Constantinople have already gone for the purpose. It is (probable?) that the object is torpedo operations.

Inclosure 2 in No. 448.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Ismid, May 17, 1878, 12·55 P.M.*

AMBASSADOR informs me that he suspects that the Russians are meditating an advance on Constantinople and the Bosphorus, and asks ( ) authority to ( ) the ships nearer.

I have told him I will move to Prince's Islands if he wishes it.

The Russian army moved last night from San Stefano towards Dercos.

No. 449.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 18.)

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, May* 18, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated 18th May, 1878.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 449.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.) *Ismid, May* 18, 1878, 11·46 A.M.

FOLLOWING telegraphic communication received last night from Ambassador, viz.:—

"Baker Pasha has sent a special messenger to report that a Russian attack on Constantinople and Bosphorus is imminent, and that prompt action is of all importance.

"In case of attack commencing is squadron to assist in the defence?"

No. 450.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 481.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1878.

BAKER PASHA has sent a special messenger requesting that the following be forwarded in cypher to Colonel Stanley:—

"Russian attack on Constantinople and Bosphorus imminent. Prompt action all important. Porte has asked for explanations of Russian Ambassador as to movements of the Russian troops referred to in my telegram of yesterday. He states that no (?) hostile advance is intended against Constantinople or Bosphorus. I have seen M. Onou, who gave me the most positive assurances in the same sense, and stated that General Todleben was moving his troops for sanitary reasons, and because the men had become somewhat demoralised by long inaction in an unhealthy position."

No. 451.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 482. Most Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1878.

PRIME MINISTER informs me that the Sultan has given his Ministers full authority to deal with the Austrian proposal contained in my telegram No. 473. His Highness gave me to understand that the Porte would be quite willing to come to an agreement in writing with Austria for the entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, either in the form of a Convention or of an exchange of notes, but is anxious that England should take note of any such agreement in order that Austria may not depart hereafter from her engagement.

No. 452.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 119.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 18, 1878.

IN reply to my communication to Count Schouvaloff this morning of your telegram of last night he writes to me as follows:—

"Information is false. We are not advancing on Constantinople, and do not understand what could have created this alarm.

"Please communicate this to Lord Salisbury."

Count Schouvaloff left to-day for Berlin and London.

No. 453.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 120.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 18, 1878.

M. DE GIERS has communicated to me following telegram received last night from Russian Ambassador at Constantinople dated 17th:—

"Hier et aujourd'hui panique à Constantinople, on s'attendait pour demain à un coup de main de notre part sur la capitale. Le Palais, la Porte, et le Corps Diplomatique ont été émus. Des mouvements de troupes Turques ont même eu lieu dans la nuit; les nationaux Anglais, de leur côté, ont demandé à Layard faire venir à Constantinople quelques bâtiments Anglais pour leur sécurité; j'ai eu de la peine à démentir le bruit dont j'ignore l'origine."

No. 454.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, May* 18, 1878.

THE Viceroy having asked me by telegraph on the 16th instant whether I knew about an "impending invasion" to which Captain Napier alludes in his telegram communicated to your Lordship on the 10th instant, I have replied that nothing is known here on the subject, but that I gather from a private letter of the 19th ultimo from Captain Napier that a rumour to that effect had reached him.

No. 455.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 18, 1878, 4 P.M.

M. DELYANNI told Mr. Wyndham on the 3rd instant, that he considered the insurrection in Thessaly at an end; and that if the Turks would keep faith, the Greek Government on their side were determined to do so.

No. 456.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 18, 1878, 4 P.M.

SEND Mr. Hare's report to England as soon as possible by some safe channel, but not through post-office. It might be sent by a messenger to Alexandria, and thence by mail agent on board Peninsular and Oriental boat.

No. 457.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Washington, May* 6, 1878.

IT will be remembered that my Turkish colleague addressed a note to Mr. Evarts on the 30th April, 1877, informing him that Russia had declared war against the Ottoman Empire, and expressing the hope that neutrality would be observed by the United States between the belligerents. Mr. Evarts, in reply, declared that the United States would

scrupulously maintain an attitude of neutrality, and at the same time stated that the United States' Government confidently anticipated that the Sublime Porte would scrupulously respect the rights of the United States as a neutral Power.

At that time three Russian ships of war, under the command of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis, were lying at New York. They finally left New York on the 17th May, 1877.

My Russian colleague being at the State Department on the 9th May, mentioned, in conversation with Mr. Evarts, that his country was at war with the Ottoman Empire, but it was not until the 19th of that month, two days after the Russian ships of war had sailed from New York, that M. Shiskin officially announced to Mr. Evarts by note that a state of war existed between his Government and Turkey. Mr. Evarts' reply was to the same effect as that given to my Turkish colleague.

I have now the honour to inclose copy of an affidavit signed and sworn to by one J. D. McKillop, showing that one R. Runyon, master of a canal boat, had loaded during the week preceding the 17th May, 1877, on board the Russian ships of war, 500 kegs of powder and 200 torpedoes. This document was given me by Aristarchi Bey, and upon my inquiring of him why he had not procured an affidavit from R. Runyon to the same effect, he informed me that he had endeavoured to do so, but that Runyon had stated that if he signed such a declaration he would certainly lose his situation, for which he received 100 dollars a month, and that he could not therefore sign such a document unless he should receive a compensation of 2,000 dollars. My Turkish colleague not being prepared to pay this sum, could not obtain the affidavit from Runyon.

I presume that the United States' authorities may possibly at the time have been ignorant of this breach of neutrality, though it is difficult to suppose that they were so, but I trouble your Lordship with the matter only, to show that the Russian officers on that occasion did not scruple to violate the laws of the United States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 457.

Deposition of James Duncan McKillop.

New York, June 9, 1877.

CAPTAIN James Duncan McKillop, the undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that on the 17th day of May ultimo, while in conversation with R. Runyon, captain of the canal-boat "Henry Hardy," belonging to the Laflin and Rand Powder Company, of 26, Murray Street, New York, he, the said Captain R. Runyon, stated that during the week previous to the 17th of May, he had, on the orders of his employers, the Laflin and Rand Powder Company, conveyed and loaded on board the vessels of the Russian fleet, then lying in the harbour of New York, viz., the "Bogatir," the "Svetlana," and the "Askold," the following articles of ammunition, viz., 500 kegs of powder, and 200 torpedoes.

(Signed) JAMES DUNCAN McKILLOP.

Sworn to before me, this 9th day of June, 1877.
(Signed) Wm. L. Kenan, *Notary Public.*

No. 458.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Washington, May 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 30th ultimo I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it appears that the "Cimbria" arrived at South West Harbour, near Ellsworth, in Maine, on the 28th ultimo. She had on board, as passengers, 63 Russian officers, 606 Russian sailors, and the crew of the ship, consisting of 110 men. The Chief Officer is M. de Grippenberg. She is stated to have left a port in the Baltic on the 20th ultimo, and to have passed round the north of Scotland. When off Cape Sable the captain shaped his course for Cape Cod, but was ordered by M. de Grippenberg to make South West Harbour. The "Cimbria" seems to have no arms on board, and nothing but the necessary stores and provisions.

When I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul at Portland, instructing him to send a confidential agent to Ellsworth, I did not know the precise address of Admiral Gore-Jones, who had gone to Springfield to witness some experiments in great gun firing. Seeing, however, the report of the arrival of the "Cimbria," he at once proceeded to South West Harbour, and arrived there at the same time as Mr. Starr, Vice-Consul at Portland, who had been sent there by Her Majesty's Consul at that port.

But neither of these gentlemen has been able to ascertain what the passengers on board the "Cimbria" intend to do, nor was Admiral Gore-Jones, who went alongside of her without giving his name, allowed to go on board.

The Admiral is now on his way back to New York, but is visiting Boston and other ports on the coast on his way south. He will arrive at New York to-morrow night, whence he will report officially to me with reference to the "Cimbria," which, by the last accounts, was still at South West Harbour.

Mr. Starr is remaining there for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 459.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Washington, May 6, 1878.*

THE arrival of the German steamer "Cimbria" with Russian naval officers and seamen on board of her as passengers, and the rumours which have recently been rife that the Russian Government has purchased, or intends to purchase, fast steamers in this country, with a view to converting them into Russian men-of-war in American ports and using them as cruizers against our commerce in the event of war, have given rise to a good deal of discussion, and to newspaper articles, as to whether, under the present circumstances, the United States' Government would not be justified and even called upon to prevent such steps on the part of the Russian Government.

I inclose several articles which have recently appeared in New York and other newspapers.

The first of these, from the "New York Tribune" of the 1st instant, declares that, although the fitting out of privateers in American ports would be viewed with high disfavour in this country, there is no reason why fast steamers should not be purchased, equipped, and regularly commissioned as Russian men-of-war in United States' ports. The article, however, urges the adoption of the principle that the private property of a belligerent, except contraband of war, should be exempt from seizure on the high seas.

The "New York Herald," of the same day, thinks that, if the passengers by the "Cimbria" are to man cruizers in the Atlantic, they will be put on board of them somewhere outside of the United States, that Russia will not attempt to violate the neutrality of this country, and that the United States' authorities would, by the exercise of "due diligence," prevent them from doing so.

The same newspaper of the next day expresses a suspicion that the United States' Government is taking a lax view of its duties in relation to the fitting out of ships in ports of this country under Russian auspices for cruizing against English commerce. It interprets the 3rd section of the Act of Congress of the 20th April, 1818 (Revised Statutes, section 5,283) to apply to time of peace as well as war, and to empower the President to prevent the fitting out of ships "with intent" to commit hostilities against a Power with which the United States are at peace.

The "Baltimore Sun," of the 3rd instant, urges that Russia has no right to issue letters of marque, and hopes that United States' citizens will not accept them.

An article published on the same day in the Washington "Post" is a violent and scurrilous personal attack upon my Russian colleague, M. Shishkin, which, however, is founded more upon a rumour recently current that he had been in negotiation with Fenian leaders for the engagement of a body of Irishmen for the service of Russia, than upon the arming of cruizers in American ports.

The inclosed article, in the "New York Herald" of the same day, is the most remarkable of these extracts. It asserts most positively that the Russian Government would have no right, in anticipation of a declaration of war, to purchase fast steamers, arm and equip them in United States' ports with "intent" to use them as cruizers against British commerce. It admits that such a course might not be in

contravention of International Law, but asserts that it would be a flagrant violation of the Statutes of the United States, and it concludes by declaring that to allow such proceedings would be a neglect of duty on the part of this Government.

An article in the "New York Tribune," of the same date, mildly supports a similar doctrine, and says that Russia can buy ships here, but cannot arm or furnish them in American waters.

Mr. Evarts has been absent from Washington for some days, partly on account of the death of one son, whose remains he accompanied to his home in Vermont, and almost simultaneously owing to the serious illness of another son in New York. As he was in that city for five or six days, I cannot but hope that the spirit and tone of the somewhat remarkable article in the "New York Herald" of the 3rd instant may have been due in some measure to an expression of his opinions upon the subject; for it must be remembered that the newspaper in question, being very much under the control of Irish influences, as well as the "Tribune," to a certain extent, is, in general, hostile to Great Britain, and sympathises with Russia.

Indeed, an article in the "Herald" of the following day shows the feelings by which the editors of that newspaper assume to be animated, and declares that they are those of the people of the United States, who, if Russia should get involved in war with England, would "wish her success and rejoice at her victories."

An article in the "Tribune" of the same day endeavours to find excuses for the United States' Government, in case it should not be able to prevent some vessels from being fitted out in and escaping from ports of this country.

It talks of the extent of the territory and of the sea-coast, of the number of disaffected Irish in this country for which it considers that England is to blame, and of the losses sustained by United States' citizens from the acts of the "Alabama" and other cruizers. Considering the sacrifices made by England with reference to these matters, the statements made in this article are most unworthy.

A communication from Washington to the "Sun" newspaper, of New York, of the 4th instant, thinks that letters of marque will not be issued by Russia, but that she may convert vessels bought in this country into regularly commissioned men-of-war. But, it adds, that before they can really be accepted as men-of-war, they must first touch at a Russian port. It, therefore, argues that the "Cimbria's" voyage can have no reference to any action in the Atlantic, but that her passengers must be intended for service in the Pacific.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 460.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)
Washington, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

REPORTS without number are current with regard to the probable proceedings of the Fenians in the event of war between Great Britain and Russia. Most of them are utterly unworthy of belief.

My impression is that their chief object would be to excite an insurrection in Ireland, and with that view they would probably send some money, a few men, and perhaps some arms. It does not appear likely that any raid will be made upon Canada, though there seems to be a feeling amongst them, that if we should attempt to recruit men from that colony, it would be advisable to make a feint upon the border, so as to deter the Canadian Government from encouraging the enlistment of men and their leaving Canada. It is said that this might be done from Buffalo.

I have some confidence, however, that the United States' Government will do its best to prevent any hostilities from being carried out against Canada by the Fenians in this country.

I believe that there is no doubt that one Burke, calling himself a colonel, and a well-known Fenian leader, came here recently from New York, for the purpose of seeing my Russian colleague, and of proposing that he, Burke, should be authorized to raise 6,000 Irishmen in this country fully armed, who should, in the event of war, enter the service of Russia. Colonel Burke was to suggest that previous notice should be given him of an intended declaration of war, so that he might get his men on board, and they might leave this country before the United States' authorities should have any grounds for preventing

them from doing so. That Colonel Burke had an interview with M. Shishkin, I have no doubt, but I have not been able to ascertain what was the nature of the answer given to his proposals. The scheme, however, seems to be one of such improbable success that I can hardly suppose that my Russian colleague would have entertained it, or recommended it to his Government.

The press of this country has in general dissuaded the Irish from entering the service of Russia. The strongest proof of this is the article from the "New York Herald" which I have the honour to inclose, and which is the more significant because that paper owes its principal support to, and is almost controlled by, the Irish in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 460.

Extract from the "New York Herald" of May 5, 1878.

No. 461.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 122.)
Washington, May 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter from Mr. Hurst, managing agent at New York of the National Line of Steam-ships, suggesting that, as the Russian Government probably intends to purchase in the United States fast steamers for the purpose of preying upon British commerce, it would be advisable that Her Majesty's Government should buy up all the steamers to be found in this country which might be available for that purpose, and which he supposes would cost from 800,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* sterling.

I have replied that I will forward a copy of his letter to your Lordship, and that I am confident that Her Majesty's Government will, in the event of war, take such measures as may seem most effectual for the protection of British commerce; but I have pointed out to him that the argument in favour of the purchase of steamers in this country available as cruizers, would hold good with regard to all other countries where such steamers might be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 461.

Mr. Hurst to Sir E. Thornton.

National Line of Steam-ships, 69, *Broadway, New York, May* 2, 1878.

Dear Sir,

THE appearance of the "Cimbria" at Ellsworth, Maine, added to the rumours which have been current here for a day or two of the negotiations of the Russian Government with certain American shipowners looking towards a transfer of some fast iron and wooden steamers to the Russian flag, together with my Company's large interest in this trade, represented by a weekly line to Liverpool of six steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 28,492 tons, and a weekly line to London made up also of six steamers of a gross register tonnage of 24,174 tons, together amounting to 52,666 tons, prompts me to write a few lines to urge on you the great benefit now that war seems inevitable which would accrue to British commerce if our Government were to buy the available steamers here which are suitable for the purposes which the Russians will no doubt put them to. An expenditure of 800,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* would control all the suitable American steamers, some eight or ten in these waters, and if necessary they could be converted into cruisers eventually to protect our commerce, instead of being used against it, which they undoubtedly will be if some move is not made. It will be almost needless for me to point out that if any of these vessels are allowed to fall into Russian hands incalculable harm will be done to our commerce, and it will cost us hundreds of thousands of pounds to catch them, after our trade has been ruined, and millions of pounds sterling paid out by English shipowners and merchants for war premiums, whilst if we prevent the Russians from acquiring these ships we shall of course save all this money to the trade of Great Britain. This plan appears to

me so feasible, and the expenditure of money is so small as compared with the harm these ships could do, that I earnestly hope you may consider it within the scope of your duty to recommend some such course to our Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. W. J. HURST, *Managing Agent.*

No. 462.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 123. Confidential.)
Washington, May 6, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting Consul-General at New York, transmitting an extract from a report made by a detective employed by him, in which it is stated that he had learnt from the crew of the "Pomerania," which arrived at that port on the 30th ultimo, that the steamer "Hammonia" was being fitted out at Hamburgh for the same purpose as the "Cimbria," and that the "Westphalia" and "Thuringia" are in the same port, and are supposed to have been bought or chartered by the Russian Government.

I transmitted the substance of this report in my telegram to your Lordship of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 462.

Acting Consul-General Edwards to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.)
New York, May 1, 1878.
Sir,

WITH reference to the subject of Mr. Consul-General Archibald's despatch of yesterday, marked Secret, I have the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, extract from a further report made to me this morning by the detective employed to watch the shipping in this port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PIERREPONT EDWARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 462.

Extract from Detective's Report.

FROM the crew of the steamer "Pomerania," which arrived here yesterday from Hamburgh, I learnt that the steamer "Hammonia" is being fitted out in that port for the same purpose as the "Cimbria," and that the "Westphalia" and Thuringia" are in the same port, and supposed to have been bought or chartered by the Russian Government.

No. 463.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
Washington, May 6, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting-Consul-General at New York, in which he transmits information received by him to the effect that the Russian Government is about to establish a naval station on the Isthmus of Panama, at or near the Gulph of Chiriqui. Mr. Edwards seemed so confident of the truth of this report that I did not hesitate to forward the substance of it to your Lordship, by telegraph, on the 3rd instant. But I should hardly have supposed that the Russian Government

would have selected a point so exposed to the attacks of disease from the climate, and of a belligerent enemy from its position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 463.

Acting Consul-General Edwards to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.)
New York, May 2, 1878.
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a gentleman, in whom Mr. Consul-General Archibald has long placed the highest confidence, has called on me this morning and has shown me a portion of a letter from a friend who, he tells me, is a son of a person, now or recently filling the post of Secretary of the German Embassy at Paris, stating that the Russian Government is about completing arrangements for the establishment of a naval station on the Isthmus of Panama, at or near the Gulf of Chiriqui. The writer further stated that he was about to leave for St. Petersburgh in connection with this matter, and applied to my informant for certain information concerning Central America, with which part of the world the latter has considerable acquaintance.

My informant had bound me by a promise not to divulge his name or that of his correspondent, of which latter, indeed, I am ignorant, as in the hasty view of the letter which I was permitted to take it was not possible for me to decipher the signature. From the way, however, in which the information has reached me, I have no doubt of its reliability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PIERREPONT EDWARDS.

No. 464.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 125.)
Washington, May 6, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a letter of the 5th instant, which I have received from Rear-Admiral Gore-Jones, Naval Attaché to this Legation, reporting the result of his visit to South West Harbour, in Maine, for the purpose of endeavouring to ascertain the intended movements of the Russian transport "Cimbria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 464.

Rear-Admiral Gore Jones to Sir E. Thornton.

Boston, May 5, 1878.
Sir,

I HAVE to inform you, for the information of the Admiralty, that on my arrival in New York from Springfield on the 30th ultimo, I heard of the arrival of the "Cimbria" on the coast of Maine. I instantly determined to start by night mail, and having telegraphed to you, got all the information I could from the Consul, and called upon the Russian Minister, who declared the reports to be all false, I proceeded to Portland, where Mr. Ray,* the Vice-Consul, joined me, going also to South West Harbour. After getting to Buckport, we had to go forty-five miles by horse teams, and we arrived on the afternoon of the 2nd instant.

I found the "Cimbria" still there. The place was singularly well adapted for a vessel such as the steamer in question to lie in waiting orders. Perfectly landlocked by outside islands, and Mount Desert Island itself, it is little frequented by strangers at this season of the year, but being a great summer resort, a telegraph belonging to a private company runs right down to the beach. The Maine liquor law exists, and great difficulties, on account of isolated position, for men to desert.

I found the "Cimbria," Captain Badenhausen, of the Hamburgh line, had on board

* Mr. Starr.

by manifest, 60 cabin and 606 steerage passengers, the former officers, and the latter sailors of the Russian navy. She had a German crew of 110 officers and men. She had nothing on board but ship's stores.

The Collector of Customs told me he had been all over the ship, and her manifest was perfectly in order and correct.

Towards sunset I saw about 20 officers and about 100 men, who had been on shore on leave, returning to the ship. The officers were in very seedy plain clothes and young, ill-looking men. The crew were rather a fine set of men, cleanly and stout.

The next morning I pulled round the ship, and I asked the purser, who was standing on lower part of accommodation ladder, if any visitors were allowed on board, and he said, "No, no one." So I passed on. I observed the ship was very light. Fires appeared to be banked, the crew were moving coals from main hold to bunkers, and the Russians washing clothes.

I may here observe the "Cimbria" was built by Messrs. Caird and Co., of Greenock, 326 feet long, beam 40, depth of hold 26, 3,025 tons register, engines 600 horse power, working up to 3,000, 8 boilers and 16 furnaces, steams 12 to 13 knots.

I then went on shore, and shortly afterwards officers and men landed, and I observed some of the officers seemed to know me, as they had probably been in the "Squadron" with the Grand Duke Alexis last year.

The captain then came on shore and told our hotel-keeper that his stay was quite uncertain, he was entirely under orders himself, and asked some questions about money and drawing bills, &c.

Having then duly considered the whole matter, and judging from what I saw and heard, I came to the conclusion that the "Cimbria" was finally a transport, and with regard to the men, there are three suppositions.

1. They are come to man cruizers on this coast. This idea is highly improbable, and I do not believe in it.

2. That they are for service in the "Siberian squadron," or to man cruizers in the Pacific, and that they are to be sent overland either by Pacific rail or Panama route.

This is probable, and the ship may be waiting for events to show the actual necessity of sending them at all.

3. That the ship herself is to go to the Pacific with the men, and is waiting to receive stores, munitions of war, or supplies which are not quite ready for her.

I think this is the most probable solution, and that the Russians have been somewhat deceived in imagining they could lie unobserved for some little time in South-West Harbour.

As South-West Harbour is now closely observed by reporters and others, and every movement of the Russians noticed, I determined to leave Mr. Ray and to return to the lines of railway, as it is a matter of great difficulty to get away from South-West Harbour by land; and I feel sure the vessel will go outside to receive stores, &c., or start suddenly to land her men.

I have since communicated with Consuls at Portland and Boston, and I intend to visit New Haven, to see if anything is going on there; but everything seems to me to point out that the "Cimbria's" men are intended for the Pacific, and if cruizers are purchased for service in the Atlantic, they will be got in Europe, and not here.

On the 29th ultimo I visited the works of Ames and Co., of Chicopee, near Springfield. They were executing an order for 200,000 sword bayonets for the Martini-Henry rifle, and this being the "Turkish weapon," they imagine the bayonets were for the Turks, the order having been given by the Providence Tool Company, and money promptly paid.

Mr. Lay had been trying to induce the firm to take up his torpedo, but they declined.

The Messrs. Ames told me Russia had purchased no arms, only powder, cartridges, and a large amount of shells for cartridges, to fill themselves.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WM. GORE JONES.

No. 465.

Mr. Fraser to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Peking, May 13, 1878.*

THE Russian Vice-Consul at Shanghae has notified to foreign shipping that torpedoes have been placed at the entrance of the Port of Vladivostock. Vessels before entering the port must apply to the guard-ship for an officer to pilot them.

No. 466.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 18, 1878.*

BB DODA arrived here this afternoon, and has been received with great kindness by the Pasha. Latter informs me that the Montenegrins have placed in position eight cannons around Podgoritza.

I start to-morrow morning for Montenegro.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 467.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 483. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 18, 1878.*

AS the Russians have moved in considerable force nearer to Constantinople and Bosphorus, could it not be arranged that our fleet should return to Prince's Islands? Admiral says anchorage at Ismid is unhealthy, and that he will have to leave it, and there is no other suitable anchorage sufficiently near to Constantinople. This affords an excuse, as well as Russian movements, for an approach of our ships to the capital. The presence of the fleet at the Prince's Islands would encourage Turks in defending city and Bosphorus, and might contribute materially to prevent a *coup de main* on either. Notwithstanding Russian assurances to the contrary, there is a profound conviction here that, in case a war was imminent between Russia and England, the first step on the part of the Russians would be to occupy Constantinople. I have been warned of this by persons in relation with the Russian Generals. It is to be considered, however, whether any movement of our fleet towards the Bosphorus would precipitate an attack upon Constantinople. Every day gained is an advantage to Turks, as defences can be improved, and about 20,000 men are expected immediately from Thessaly.

No. 468.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 484.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 18, 1878.*

MR. CALVERT reports that in an engagement at Pleon on the 13th insurgents defeated force of Cossacks and Bulgarians, killing twenty-five of latter. On the following day insurgents were driven from their position, losing twenty dead and two prisoners. Insurrection still spreading, and Russian officers admit that insurgents hold compact line of defence from west of Balkan to the sea. Russians expect by the military co-operation of the Christians to raise their army south of the Balkan to 200,000 men.

No. 469.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 486.) *Constantinople, May* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just heard from Baker Pasha that the Russians have concentrated and are concentrating in great force, and are slowly advancing and turning back Turkish posts and thus gaining important strategical points. The question to be decided, he says, is when must resistance commence?

No. 470.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 487.) *Constantinople, May* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR-GENERAL of Janina telegraphs to the Porte that a Greek chief named Miliski, accompanied by three other chiefs and 150 men, has crossed Turkish frontier near Arta, and established a Provisional Government in the district of Radoviz (?) and have arrested the Governor, and attempted to burn down Government house. Troops have been sent against them, but the Prime Minister wishes to know what after understanding come to with Greece, the Turkish authorities should do.

Sent to Athens.

No. 471.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 488.) *Constantinople, May* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Labanoff's telegram was purposely sent *en clair*, and was consequently generally known here. It is not true that British Resident here asked for ships of war. It is true that there was much alarm at Constantinople, and the forward movement of the Russians, and the advanced positions they have occupied, fully justified it.

No. 472.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 489.) *Constantinople, May* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 488, unless the Russians fall back there will be constant danger of these alarms, and of collisions with the Turks, which might lead to untoward circumstances. If the Russian Government really desires peace, and to avoid such collisions, it should withdraw its troops to a greater distance from Constantinople, otherwise Porte will never be persuaded that they are not being pushed forward in order to seize strategical positions which would give them an immense advantage in case of war.

No. 473.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

Athens, May 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of 17th instant, Greek authority at Lamia states that Mr. Blunt must have been mistaken as to the intention of the refugees, as none have left Greek territory, nor are any preparing to do so.

Greek authority at Corfu telegraphs to his Government that refugees are afraid to return to Turkey.

Sent to Constantinople.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Blunt and Sir C. Sebright.

No. 474.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1878, 7·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 483, I do not think any case has arisen for moving fleet nearer Constantinople, and it might have the effect of precipitating a collision. I can only explain contradiction between assurances at St. Petersburgh and movement on Constantinople, on supposition that the war party hearing that the Emperor is inclining towards concession are anxious to forestall his decision by an accomplished fact which he cannot disavow, and therefore wish to provoke Turks into some collision that shall give an excuse for occupying Constantinople. It is their interest and ours to avoid such a collision. If in spite of assurances we have received, an unprovoked attack were made by Russians, their perfidy would give to us a moral force here and in Europe, outweighing the possible strategical gain of a surprise. But if we were to make any demonstration that should encourage Turks into a forward movement just now, probably the moral advantage would be forfeited without the strategic position being secured.

No. 475.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1878, 10·45 P.M.

WITH reference to the telegram from Constantinople, No. 487, represent to Greek Government that unless they make every effort to prevent a renewal of the insurrection, they will bring into question the good faith of Her Majesty's Government, who has answered to the Porte for their sincerity.

No. 476.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 633.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 483 of the 18th instant, in which you report the rumours which have reached you that the Russian forces had moved in considerable force nearer to Constantinople and the Bosphorus. You likewise suggest that it might be prudent, under the circumstances, that Her Majesty's ships should return to Princes' Islands.

In reply I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not consider that any case has arisen to render it expedient to send such orders to the Admiral in command of the British fleet. Such a step might have the effect of precipitating a collision between the Turkish and the Russian forces.

I can only explain the contradiction between the pacific assurances received by Her Majesty's Government from Constantinople, and the threatening movements near Constantinople reported by your Excellency, on the supposition that the war party, hearing that the Emperor is inclining towards concession, are anxious to forestal His Majesty's decision by an accomplished fact which he cannot disavow, and therefore wish to provoke the Turks into some collision that shall give an excuse for the occupation of Constantinople. It is in the interests of the Turks as well as of ourselves to avoid such a collision.

If, in spite of the assurances we have received, an unprovoked attack were made by the Russians, their perfidy would give to us a moral force in this country, and in Europe, outweighing the possible strategic gain of a surprise. But if any demonstration were to be made on the part of the British fleet that should encourage the Turks into a forward movement just now, probably the moral advantage would be forfeited without the strategic position being secured.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 477.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Ragusa, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

MY Turkish colleague informed me this morning that a band of insurgents had been formed at Lioubusia, in Bosnia.

One is naturally surprized that the moment when the Great Powers are engaged in an attempt to settle the affairs of Turkey it should be thought opportune for a fresh rise.

General Rodich, the Governor of Dalmatia, who has always been in favour of an occupation of the Turkish provinces, is now said to be encouraging an insurrection, or at all events the appearance of one, with the view to the consummation of a much desired project; and, as a pretext for concentrating troops, to be complaining that the Austrian frontier is being threatened.

I reported to your Lordship in my despatch of yesterday's date that a regiment had been transferred to Spalatro, ostensibly for the sake of its music, but more probably as a precautionary measure in anticipation of a rise; or, possibly, as a protection to the refugees, who shortly will cease to receive assistance from the Austrian Government; and whose repatriation is now contemplated; though doubts are entertained as to their willingness to cross the frontier, unless protected by Austrian troops.

Such a necessity is strongly advocated by the local Government and by the so-called nationalists, whose aim it is to form a Slav Empire, and therefore look upon an occupation as a step in the right direction, and consequently with greatest satisfaction.

I have further the honour to report that the fugitives from Antivari, who, during the bombardment of that place by the Montenegrins, were taken to the island of Curzola by Austrian ships of war, will in a few days be conveyed to some port on the Albanian coast —probably Durazzo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 478.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 382. Most Confidential.)

Berlin, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

THE prolonged illness of Prince Bismarck and the excessive reserve and reticence during his absence of the German Ministers generally, render it somewhat difficult to obtain at present any authentic information from official German sources on passing events.

As far, however, as I can gather, the impression here is that Count Schouvaloff will find his Government better disposed than some weeks since to listen to the voice of reason. It is not meant thereby that the Czar will give up either Bessarabia or Kars, or that he will agree to the "Balkan line" frontier for Bulgaria, or to the reduction of Montenegro to the proportions proposed by Austria, but that on most other points Russia will now be found ready to yield to the wishes and requirements of England and Austria.

In regard to Austria it is thought, I find, that some show of resistance to her wishes on the part of Russia will be welcome to Count Andrassy, so as to lull Hungary into the illusion that the coming occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is undertaken in spite of, and not with the consent of Russia, and perhaps also to have a further excuse to extend the new frontier of the Austrian Empire as far south as Avlona on the Adriatic and Mount Olympus on the Gulf of Salonica.

According to an agreement supposed to have been come to between the Emperors of Austria and Russia at Reichstadt in July, 1876, the southern portion of Epirus and the whole of Thessaly would then be added to the Kingdom of Greece.

All this may be merely conjecture, but I mention it to show what German politicians are prone to believe at the present moment.

They believe also that Count Andrassy would not be so impatient to submit his policy to a Congress if he did not feel already certain of the support of his friends in favour of the desired annexations, which are to neutralize the anti-Austrian elements in the Treaty of San Stefano.

I note also that German politicians think the indifference Prince Bismarck professes

to the manner in which the Powers are to settle finally these important questions, is scarcely natural in so ardent a politician, and in a statesman of so much foresight, who has never yet been known to leave anything to chance. They suspect him of having long since made up his mind in favour of a redistribution of power in the East, which he is secretly working out, and they think the three northern Powers have agreed to procrastinate and gain time, so as to prolong the phase foreshadowed by Prince Bismarck in his speech of the 19th February last, when he announced the probable "Versumpfung" of the Oriental question, the advantage of which to them would be to accustom public opinion in Europe gradually to the partition of Turkey, which the "honest broker" has undertaken to realize for his Russian and Austrian friends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 479.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 388.)

Berlin, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatches which I have received from Commander Grenfell, Her Majesty's Naval Attaché at this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 479.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.

Hamburgh, May 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE made inquiries with reference to the report that certain steamers were likely to be chartered by the Russian Government for service similar to that on which the "Cimbria" has been employed.

There are at present three large steamers of the Hamburgh-New York line laid up in port, named the "Westphalia," "Hammonia," and "Thuringia." They are large vessels of about 2,000 tons, and can keep a speed of 13 knots easily, and can do about 14 if pressed.

All these vessels could be got ready for sea in three or four days at most.

The reason that they are not now on the regular line is that, not being fitted with compound engines, their coal consumption is comparatively large—said to be 80 tons per diem.

Mr. Consul Annesley is reporting on the same subject, but as my information is derived from a different source—the superintendent of the line of steamers—I have thought it advisable to submit it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. GRENFELL, *Commander, Naval Attaché.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 479.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.

Kiel, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

THE managing director of one of the principal engineering firms in Germany, who has recently returned from St. Petersburgh and Cronstadt, where he had an opportunity of inspecting the Russian ships, informs me that the "Peter the Great" is in a most defective condition, and that it is very doubtful, short of an almost entire reconstruction, whether she can be made use of in case of hostilities.

The "General Admiral," he says, broke down completely on her trials. The principal fault is in her engines, which were designed with such large cylinders and heavy parts that everything went to pieces.

The "Minin" he criticises as being too heavily spurred and too high out of the water. She is, however, nearly ready for her trials.

The "Duke of Edinburgh" is more backward, and will take a considerable time to complete.

The engines for torpedo boats ordered in Germany have been delivered, and the boats are been rapidly fitted. They can keep a speed of 16 knots easily. As is known, these boats are from designs by Messrs. Jarrow, and are 75 feet long. A torpedo gun, to fire the Whitehead torpedo from above the water, is being fitted to the bow of each boat. They have spar topedoes in addition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. GRENFELL, *Commander, R.N.*,
Naval Attaché.

Inclosure 3 in No. 479.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.

Kiel, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE ascertained that a portion of the cargo of the steamer "Holsatia," which left Kiel last Friday for a Russian port, consisted of a number of large cases which had arrived from Fiume, Austria.

There is but little doubt that these cases contained Whitehead torpedoes. They were consigned to a merchant in Kiel, who is Mr. Whitehead's agent, as well as Russian Consul.

Great care was taken to prevent the nature of the contents of the cases becoming known.

It may be important for Her Majesty's Government to be made aware that Mr. Whitehead is supplying his torpedoes to the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. GRENFELL, *Commander, R.N.*,
Naval Attaché.

No. 480.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 532.)

St. Petersburgh, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a translation by Mr. Michell of an appeal issued by the Committee for the promotion of a Russian volunteer naval force, and of cruizers, which was published in yesterday's official "Gazette."

The impassioned language of this document, and the open allusions to the "enemy" of Russia, together with the fact that the Society is under the presidency of the Cesarewitch, and that the subscriptions asked for are receivable at the Palace of His Imperial Highness, has attracted considerable attention to this document.

I was happy, however, to learn to-day from Count Schouvaloff, that the publication of these "lucubrations of the Moscow gentlemen," (to use His Excellency's words) took place without the Emperor's knowledge, and is deplored by his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 480.

Appeal issued by the Chief Committee, presided over by the Cesarewitch, and established at St. Petersburgh, for the Collection of Funds towards the Purchase of a Volunteer Force, or of Cruizers.

(Translation.)

TWO months have already elapsed since the day that our heroic army, after executing exploits almost unparalleled in history, and having victoriously borne the Russian standard from one end of the enemy's land to the other, took up their head-quarters at the very

gates of the enemy's capital. The Treaty of Peace was signed, and all Russia prepared to welcome her heroic sons.

But while our former enemies were signing the Treaty of Peace, there appeared in the Sea of Marmora, close to our troops, a formidable fleet of war ships belonging to the most powerful maritime Power in the world. On the extreme west of Europe warlike preparations were rapidly and openly pushed forward; possessing money in abundance, these preparations assumed enormous proportions. The fulfilment of our Treaty of Peace was suspended.

No enemy on earth can inspire Russia with fear. Russia numbers many Christian warriors and a population numbering millions, which in compact masses surround the throne. In Russia there always were, are, and still will be found both Pojarskis and Minins.* The work of the Minins is to muster the forces, that of the Pojarskis to organize and direct the defence, and when an attack is inevitable to be able to discover the enemy's weak point, so as to compel him to reflect.

At the present time, if it is the will of God that Russia should undergo another war so as to gather the fruits of the campaign just concluded, and insure for ever the position of our liberated co-religionists, all our strength must be directed to attacking our enemy in the open seas and oceans.

Will our sailors be equal to the task? They will, for they are Russians. They must be furnished with good fast sailing-vessels in abundance, and they will discover the weak point of our possibly new foe. Manned by our daring sailors, a score of vessels distributed on our enemy's highways of commerce will stop his universal trade, and it is only necessary to stop this trade for one month, and the piles of gold on which he prides himself will rapidly commence to melt away.

The establishment of a volunteer naval force, and the collection of subscriptions for this national work, is Imperially sanctioned. The sums collected will be applied towards purchasing vessels in different ports, and which at the first signal will take to sea. The sooner they are purchased and equipped the better, "If you wish for peace, be prepared for war."

A volunteer naval force is not a temporary project, but a permanent one. The vessels of this fleet in time of peace can be employed for peaceful objects; when disarmed they can undertake the transport of those million of poods of different goods which we export and import, and for the conveyance of which the Russian people, not possessing their own mercantile fleet, pay foreigners millions of roubles yearly. By these means the money collected may in course of time be repaid to the contributors, and in the event of an unexpected war we shall have a fleet ready either for defence or attack.

If our enemy has more gold than we have, there is not another nation on earth that loves its country more than we, the Russian people, love our native Russia, our Father-Czar, and woe be to him who doubts this. Now that our Father-Czar has sanctioned the establishment of a volunteer naval force, under the supervision of his son, the Cesarewitch, for the protection of our Fatherland, let us offer our contributions with a liberal hand, according to our means, and with the sign of the Cross, remembering that we are ready if challenged by the foe again to form a bulwark with our breasts in defence of our honest and righteous cause, and may God punish the aggressor.

Subscriptions will be received at St. Petersburgh, Anichkin Palace, by His Imperial Highness the Cesarewitch, President of the Committee for Establishing a Volunteer Force. Subscriptions are received from 11 to 3 o'clock daily.

Subscriptions sent by post should be addressed as follows:—

"His Imperial Highness the Cesarewitch, in aid of the establishment of a Naval Volunteer Force, St. Petersburgh."

No. 481.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Warsaw, May 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report for your Lordship's information, that, since the date of my despatch No. 12 of the 9th instant, the following movements of troops have taken place. Seventeen battalions of riflemen have been sent to Mlawa and its environs, a town near Prasnitsy, in Poloda. To effect this, the battalions from Skiernewice and Kutno, towns lying on the Warsaw-Bromberg line of railroad, are among those which

* Famous Russian heroes of olden times.—Translator.

have been sent from the Kingdom of Poland. Besides these, I have also ascertained that the cavalry from Suvalki, the chief town in the military district of Augustov, are also being forwarded to Miendzyborz.

I have also ascertained, upon undoubted authority, that the 40th, 42nd, and 43rd infantry divisions, about 48,000 men, have recently been moved to Vladimir-Volynski, Vladimir in Volhynia.

I have also been informed that, very recently, each officer in command of a company of infantry, or squadron of cavalry, has been furnished with a map of Austria, which has been obtained by photographing one of the Austrian staff maps, the designations of the towns being in German.

I have also to inform your Lordship that orders have been recently received, throughout the Kingdom of Poland, to be in readiness to call out the First Reserve of the Kingdom, numbering about 26,000 men, the same to be completed in three weeks' time from the issuing of the expected order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 482.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 15, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH the refusal of the Committee of the Austrian Reichsrath to accept the proposal of the Government for raising the 60,000,000 fl. voted by the Delegations till further explanations are given respecting the manner in which they are to be employed, must be taken as a symptom of distrust, I am assured that there is no doubt that, when the explanations are given, the consent of the Austrian Chamber will be obtained.

The whole transaction affords a striking exemplification of the complicated and inconvenient constitutional arrangements in force here. The decision of the question, whether a credit was to be granted to the Government or not, rested with the Delegations, who decided it in the affirmative; but the approval of the Chambers of the two divisions of the Empire was required to the mode to be proposed for raising the money. The Committee of the Austrian Reichsrath, however, does not withhold its sanction to the Government proposal on the ground of its being in itself objectionable, but because further explanations on the policy of the Government are required. Some justification for this demand is certainly afforded by the terms of the vote of the Delegations, but the Hungarian Committee adopt the different view.

The resolution of the Committee of the Austrian Reichsrath to withhold its decision till further explanations are given was unquestionably brought about by the suspicion entertained by so many persons that a projected occupation of Bosnia is intended under an arrangement with Russia; and a declaration to the Delegations, which will probably assemble on Saturday, as explicit as that of M. Tisza, which I forward to your Lordship in another despatch, will probably be considered satisfactory. Although he did not mention Russia, the statement that corps would be placed on the northern and north-eastern as well as on the southern frontier; that there are portions of the Treaty of San Stefano at variance with Austrian interests; that the Imperial Government will endeavour to proceed upon an understanding with Europe, or, failing that, with any such Power as pursues the same object, not as regards one portion of the East, but as regards the East as a whole; and that they repudiate the notion of a parallel or compensating occupation, must be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 483.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 390. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 16, 1878.*

BARON CALICE has told me that he unconsciously misinformed me the other day, when he said that no preparations had been made for the reception of troops at Cattaro,

for he found that in consequence of reports from Montenegro the military authorities had thought it necessary to be on the watch in that quarter.

The Minister of War also tells me that to prevent the Transylvanian frontier from lying completely open some defensive works had been commenced at the different passes of the mountain. The Archduke William, the Grand Master of the Artillery, proceeded to Transylvania last week, and his presence there is no doubt connected with the same object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 484.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 393.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 16, 1878.*

THE Austrian Government have received the same accounts as those which have been sent by Mr. Kirby Green of the aggressive preparations that are going on in Montenegro.

They have further heard that the so-called refugees within the Principality, who have been formed into regular battalions, to the number of about 10,000 men, are being sent back to their country provided with money, which is said to be in the shape of Russian roubles, with the view of stirring up fresh disturbances.

The military authorities declare that they are not comfortable about Cattaro, the position of which is scarcely defensible, unless the Austrian troops have access to the Principality by Antivari and Podgoritza.

That the Montenegrins possess inaccessible positions commanding the Austrian territory around Cattaro is of course certain, but it is not improbable that the inconveniences or dangers may be exaggerated by those who wish to point out the necessity for an extension of the Imperial dominions as far as the Boyana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 485.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 400.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, May 17, 1878.*

THE Austrian Government, intent on insuring a happy issue out of its chronic financial differences of opinion with Hungary, seems to have abandoned every particular of foreign policy distasteful to the Magyars. In truth, the liquidation of some part of the 60,000,000 gulden "mobilisation credit" has become a necessity because expenditure has begun.

I have before mentioned that the Delegations have systematically cut out from the yearly army estimates charges for heavy guns and Hungarian fortifications.

Taking a survey of the empire, the following dislocation of troops may be called abnormal:—

Companies of Engineers are defending the Carpathian defiles with earth-works.

In villages on the frontier of Roumania and at Orsova and Semlin the companies of infantry detached from their regimental head-quarters are in doubled strength.

The 20th Division remains on the Save.

The 18th Division in Dalmatia has been further reinforced by Jäger battalions. Two

are at Cattaro, more are to take the place of the 69th Regiment, head-quarters of which regiment have been sent to Spalato from Ragusa.

Three small iron-clad ships are in the "Bocca di Cattaro," and others watch the Albanian coast.

Now there is nothing in this insignificant display of force to indicate an offensive policy on the part of the Emperor; on the contrary, until a mobilisation of troops takes place, it must be inferred that Count Andrassy aims at representing Austria in an European Conference with the forces of the empire on a peace footing, ready to mobilise if a menace be deemed necessary.

The officers of the army have ceased to expect even a partial mobilisation, since the Prime Ministers of Vienna and Pest have uttered most contradictory views of the Imperial policy. It remains, however, for Count Andrassy to throw light on the situation. The army expects inaction, and there is even some talk of the Landwehr manœuvres, which are to take place this autumn in Bohemia.

If events further East do not change the aspect of affairs, I shall be able in my next to submit a programme of the Austrian peace manœuvres, and have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers.*

No. 486.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 60. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Servia intends returning to his army in a couple of days. Recruits have been ordered to join the ranks, and all officers on furlough likewise.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 487.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 3, 1878.

IN reply to your Lordship's inquiries as to the positions occupied by the Russian army in Servia, I have the honour to report that there are nowhere any Russian troops within the territory of this Principality, nor has there been during the late war.

The portions of territory occupied by Servian troops continue in their exclusive occupation in accordance with the stipulations of the armistice. These have been fully reported upon in my despatch No. 30, dated February 23, 1878.

During the late war Prince Milan had about 60,000 men under arms, and the Russian Government paid at the rate of sixpence for every man employed.

The only Russian officer present in Servia was Colonel, now General, Babrikoff, who acted as Military Commissioner at the Prince's head-quarters.

About one-half of the above force have been allowed to go home to attend to their rural occupations, but some have been recalled since, and as recruitment is proceeded with in the recently annexed districts, a force even larger than 60,000 men could be again on foot at a very short notice, and could, if the occasion required, assist a Russian army in case of a new war by protecting its flank and keeping garrison in different places.

Even now the Servians are posted at places which are ultimately destined to be incorporated with Bulgaria. In some of these the Bulgarian Commission, sitting at Sofia, has attempted to exercise jurisdiction, but this was resented by Prince Milan, and the matter having been referred to the Emperor, His Majesty sent orders to leave the Servians masters provisionally wherever they held possession under the armistice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 488.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 66. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 5, 1878.

IT is quite clear that Prince Milan continues as heretofore to be exclusively guided by Russian counsels, but the country and some of his Ministers would be disposed to abstain from all further complications, and preserve a neutrality in case of a renewal of the war.

But to enable these parties to persevere in this peaceful disposition it would be necessary that some understanding should be come to with Austria as to the position to be assigned to this Principality in future.

There can be no doubt that Austria can, if she chooses, prevent Prince Milan and Servia from taking any hostile steps in the case of a war breaking out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 489.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, May* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, dated the 26th ultimo, regarding reforms in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Sir, *Mostar, April* 26, 1878.

BY Article XIV of the San Stefano Treaty, reforms are to be immediately introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Up to the present, the Mutesarif has not heard of any change in the administration of government here. In the course of conversation on the 21st instant, his Excellency mentioned the following changes as being the most pressing reforms:—

1. A good system of schools, where all children, Moslem, Orthodox, and Latins, should be taught together irrespective of creed.
2. Honest Judges.
3. Capable Government officials.
4. A national military force to be raised equally from Christians and Moslems.
5. Reorganization of the zaptiehs.

With regard to the first there is little doubt that the present system of education, whilst totally inadequate to the requirements of the country, tends to keep alive the animosity between the rival religious sects. The schools are entirely in the hands of the clergy.

At Bosna Serai there is a military school, in which boys training for commissions in the army are given a more liberal education; but elsewhere the Moslem schools are taught by Hodjahs, many of whom are excessively ignorant. The lessons, even in the best schools, are of a most elementary character, being chiefly confined to extracts from the Koran. Some of the boys are taught to write Turkish. The study of the national tongue is excluded from all Moslem schools, Slav only being used as a medium of explanation.

The Orthodox, who have made the greatest progress in education, have marred their good work by the extreme fanaticism inculcated by the clergy. The school books being, chiefly Servian, Russian history and Servian accounts of struggles for independence have taken the place of general history. Still these schools have done some good, as the popes, being generally too ignorant themselves to teach, lay schoolmasters are employed, and

these men, often foreigners, have introduced ideas of civilization and progress. These schoolmasters are generally devoted to Slav ideas, and have done much to keep alive the national feeling.

The Latins are the most ignorant of all Bosnacs, and this is rather discreditable to the Franciscans, who alone of Roman Catholic clergy till within the last few years had any footing in Bosnia. The Franciscans, who enjoy great privileges from the Sultan, are in good favour with the Bosnac Moslems, protected by Austria, and supplied with funds from Austria, France, and Rome, could have done much to improve the lot of the Roman Catholics had they seriously undertaken the work of education. The monks are Bosnacs, and have received their theological training in Italian seminaries; they are all attached to the various convents, of which there are eight in the diocese of Bosnia, viz., 1. Sutiska; 2. Fojnica; 3. Kresevo; 4. Livno; 5. Guicazora, near Travirih; 6. Plean, near Dervent; 7. Tolisa, near Samac; 8. Petritchevac, near Banjaluka; and two in the diocese of Herzegovina, viz., 1. Sirokiberg, near Mostar; and 2. Umac, near Sjuboshi. The curés in these two dioceses are attached to parishes for a certain number of years, on expiration of which they are either reappointed or return to their convents. The Latins east of the Narenta, along the Dalmatian frontier, are in the diocese of Ragusa, and their clergy are not Franciscans.

In very few parishes are there schools established, and in still fewer do the monks show any aptitude for teaching. The teaching of the girls is left to sisters of charity, who are established in the larger towns, and is said to be better than that given to the boys. At Fojnica a lay schoolmistress has recently been appointed by the Austrian Government. The Roman Catholic school at Mostar was built from 10,000 fr. given by the French Government.

The Franciscans lead an easy life in the convents, and in the parishes the curés rule their flocks almost despotically, but they do not seem to have identified themselves with the national movement, and it is only in the parishes in the Ragusa diocese that the priests have made open cause with the insurgents. At the present time the district in the Popovi Polje, occupied by the insurgents, is quietly governed by Fra Music, a curé who allows no Turk to enter his territory.

Two English ladies, some few years ago, attempted to institute a higher education for Bosnac women, and established a school at Bosna Serai, where girls were to be trained as schoolmistresses irrespective of creed. The insurrection, by driving Miss Irby out of the country, has prevented the school giving any result; but amidst all the fatigue and anxiety of relief work on the frontier, Miss Irby has continued her attempt to educate the Bosnacs by opening schools for the refugee children in Slavonia and Dalmatia.

The Mutesarif's wish for education has been echoed by other Moslems, who complain bitterly that the Turkish rule prevented their learning to read or write Slav. The Moslem Bosnacs feel this so keenly that one old man is learning now to read and write his mother tongue, though he is over 50 years of age. He knows Turkish and Arabic, and has held high position in the Herzegovina, where he is still one of the richest proprietors, but he feels that under the new order of things, neither wealth nor position will avail, unless he can read and write his native language.

One of the causes of the separation between Orthodox and Latin may be due to the fact that whilst the former use the Cyrillian character, the letter invariably use the Latin; and the writing of the one is often unintelligible to the other. Servian publications, being in Cyrillian, are more read by the Orthodox than Austrian, which are printed in Latin type, and consequently Orthodox Bosnacs have a tendency to regard events from a Servian point, whilst the Latins take an Austrian view.

The necessity of the second change advocated by the Mutesarif is so evident that it scarcely needs comment. Many of the grievances from which the Christians in Turkey suffer are primarily due to the utter absence of justice in the Law Courts. Turkish laws are frequently excellent, but with corrupt Judges they are rarely carried out. The virtual independence of the Kadi, whilst ensuring a faithful administration of justice with upright men, has too frequently been a great curse in these provinces, as no local check is placed on a Judge whose position is simply dependent on intrigue at Constantinople.

The third point, want of capable Government officials, raises a broader question than that of local reform. But the necessity for a change is no less pressing. In the Sandjak of Herzegovina, the Mutesarif states that he has not a single Kaimakam fit for his position, and yet each and all of these are virtually independent of any authority out of Constantinople. The Mutesarif, Mustafa Pasha, a Moslem Greek, who off and on has been fifteen years in the Slav provinces, thinks that were there a good Government in supreme authority there would be no difficulty in finding capable subordinates, but on that point I venture to differ very considerably from his Excellency.

Of the importance of reforms beginning at the seat of government, there cannot be two opinions. As long as promotion depends on bribing at Constantinople there is no chance of honest men being permanently employed in the provinces. The system of intrigue which rules all connection between the Porte and its representatives in the provinces has been extremely fatal to good government. Not only has it made corruption the order of the day, but by constant change it has prevented any employé from becoming acquainted with his district. A consequence of this has been that a Turkish official arriving at the seat of his future work finds himself entirely dependent on some person whose knowledge of local affairs may enable him to understand passing events. This demand for agents has raised a supply of hangers-on whose antecedents will not bear investigation, and whose influence has generally a most disastrous effect on administration.

After Omar Pasha reduced Bosnia in 1851-2, the influence of the Moslem Beys was almost nil, but as time went on, and the changes in the Ottoman employés became more frequent, the old proprietors gradually reasserted their influence. The Bosnac Beys remained when the Turkish officials left, and the hangers-on knew that their position near the new employé would greatly depend on their apparent footing with the local aristocracy. Influenced by this feeling, they cultivated the goodwill of the Bosnac proprietors, and as a natural result the latter had their views represented to the new officials. But there is little sympathy between the Osmanli and Bosnac Moslem, and little good has been derived from the latter's interference. The Beys have not even been trained to government, such as it is, under Turkish Pashas; they gave the general direction to local affairs, but the details of execution were left to the Osmanli or other employés. The consequence is, that when the Osmanli retires, there will be no native to take his place in Bosnia. The Beys, who alone have had any chance of seeing how government is carried on, are ignorant of details, whilst in the eyes of their countrymen they have acquired all the odium of the measures from which the Christians are suffering. The Moslem proprietors know this, and admit that autonomy would mean anarchy in Bosnia for many years. There is no educated class to take the direction of affairs. The jealousy between the religious sects would at the outset prevent any continued action of the leading men of the various communities. The Christians feel this as forcibly as the Moslems, and whilst the Orthodox are inclined to look towards Servia and Montenegro for help, the Latins, under the guidance of the Franciscans, are speaking of the necessity of Austrian interference.

The dislike to Servia displayed by both Moslems and Latins is very marked. The Moslems have recently given proof of their objection to Servian domination in emigrating from Nish and other districts occupied by Servia in the East. Here in Herzegovina the Moslems of Niksics left their homes sooner than remain under Montenegrin rule. The feelings with which a Latin regards the Orthodox States are almost as bitter; only three days ago the Roman Catholic Bishop of Mostar said that he would prefer the Turks to the Servians.

The Moslems would not object to Austrian annexation. Though Austria has not done much towards helping the Turkish authorities in suppression of the insurrection, she has managed to maintain good relations with the individual Moslem Bosnacs.

To place capable men in office, there must be a complete change of government in Bosnia. That change could not be brought about without increased disorder, unless it were carried out by a firm hand supported by force. Neither Servia nor Montenegro have shown any man of marked ability for such a work of reorganization, and neither can raise the force necessary to support the reformer. Turkey can never be reinstated in supreme power in the isolated Bosnia of the San Stefano Treaty.

Austria alone of the neighbouring States is capable of finding an able Governor, and maintaining an adequate force.

But an Austrian occupation or annexation would be the signal for renewed Servian and Montenegrin intrigue. Already Montenegrin influence is paramount amongst the Orthodox of the Herzegovina, what will it be when the Montenegrin frontier is permanently advanced to within sixteen hours of Mostar, and a garrison at Metokin (Gacko) able at any time within a few hours to close at Konjica the only road between Mostar and Bosna Serai?

An old Bey told me the other day that as long as Montenegro and Herzegovina remain separate there will be trouble. He was, I believe, right, and though perhaps the connections between Servian and Bosnac are not so close as those between Montenegrin and Herzegovinian, an independent Servia also means a disturbed Bosnia.

The national feeling has been gradually gaining ground, and will in time overcome the bigotry of Latin and fanaticism of Moslem. Croatia, Slavonia, Servia, Free and Old, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia will draw together, and till they are one

Government, either independent or a part of the Austrian Empire, there is little chance of quiet or progress in Bosnia or Herzegovina.

Austria has now the chance, and if she boldly seized it I believe she would succeed. The great objection the Slavs have to Austrian government is the Magyar supremacy, but with such large Slav territories the Kingdom of Hungary would seem but small, and must cease to exercise the power it has monopolized for the last twelve years.

It is constantly being stated in the papers that the Turkish troops are to be withdrawn from Bosnia. The commanders are still ignorant of any such movement, but it is extremely probable, and then in the absence of any foreign garrison a local force must be raised. The Mutesariff points to the necessity of recruiting it equally from the Christian and Moslem population. Patriotic spirit is not wanting, every Bosnac is passionately fond of his country, and the love of carrying elaborately ornamented arms, and wearing gay costumes might be turned to use in organizing a national force. This, if taken from Moslem, Orthodox, and Latin, might be a very powerful means of bringing about friendly relations between the various sects, and teach the Bosnac that after all his neighbour was not such a bad character, in spite of believing different superstitions and observing strange ceremonies.

The reorganization of the zaptiehs has been long recognized as a necessity, and the appointment of English officers as Inspectors of Gendarmerie looked as if some change were at hand. But the war in Bulgaria prevented any of the changes proposed in Constantinople being executed in the provinces. The zaptiehs are still organized as of old, and continue to follow their former habits. The only difference now is that all Christians are excluded from the ranks, and the pay is given at longer intervals than formerly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 490.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, May* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch Political No. 17 of the 15th March, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Constant Pasha returned from his tour of inspection and inquiry in the province on the 2nd instant. He expresses himself on the whole more satisfied with the state of the country than he had anticipated. He does not deny that numerous and sweeping reforms are necessary, but he found the Mussulmans most eager for their introduction, and is convinced that no opposition will be met with on the part of the native population. He also said that the relations between Moslems and Christians were in general better than he expected, and that the former, with some few fanatical exceptions, seemed desirous to do what was necessary to bring about a good understanding with their Christian fellow-countrymen. The complaints against the Turkish authorities were certainly in many cases not without foundation, but he thought that the fault was more in the system than with the individual.

In Constant Pasha's opinion, and I fully agree with him, the most urgent reform is that of the Tribunals. The whole system must be changed. As at present constituted nothing but corruption and a miscarriage of justice can be looked for. The Presidents, even if capable men, are so ill paid that they are almost forced to supplement their salaries by illicit gains, and are therefore completely in the hands of the local members. These members are generally chosen from the most ignorant and unscrupulous class of traders and townspeople, whose sole aim is to profit by their position in the pursuit of gain. No respectable or intelligent man will accept the position, as he can gain infinitely more by the honest pursuit of his calling. The Tribunals can only be reformed and purified, and this even Constant Pasha admitted, by the employment of foreigners as Presidents—if not in every Kaza at all events at the chief town of each sandjak. They must not only have the necessary judicial knowledge, but they must also be acquainted with the language of the country, and must be men who will punish all delinquencies of their subordinates with unflinching severity. Under such men a class of honest and efficient functionaries might gradually be formed, and the employment of foreigners eventually dispensed with.

The next most pressing reform is that of the zaptieh or police force. This appears to me a mere question of money. Make the pay adequate to the services demanded, and

there will be no difficulty in finding trustworthy men to enter the force. At present a zaptieh receives about 70 piastres kaïmé a-month. This, even if he be unmarried, is barely enough to keep him from starvation, and it is not to be wondered at if he resorts to oppression and extortion to enable him to live. The wages of an ordinary house-servant here are now about 300 piastres kaïmé a-month and board, and a trustworthy Kavas gets at least 1,000 piastres a-month; it is hardly, therefore, to be expected that for 70 piastres a man can be found fit to perform the multifarious and arduous duties of a zaptieh. Constant Pasha did not deny that the complaints against the zaptiehs were well founded, but to attempt to convict them of their malpractices would only cause useless embarrassment to the authorities, would produce a deadlock in affairs, and would be almost akin to an injustice, as long as there were no means of permanently remedying the evil.

Another important cause of discontent to the peasants is the levying of the tithe on agricultural produce. This tax must, without doubt, be eventually abolished altogether, but this cannot be done till the Government can substitute a land tax, for the equitable distribution of which the cadastral survey of this province commenced more than ten years ago, but soon abandoned, must be completed. In the meantime Constant Pasha proposes that a fixed sum, calculated on the average of a certain number of years, be paid by each village or district. His inquiries have convinced him that this arrangement would be most acceptable to the peasants, who would even willingly pay more than the estimated average to escape the annoyances and persecutions of tax-farmers or of Government tithe collectors.

Constant Pasha also advocates, and in this all persons well acquainted with the interior of Turkey I think agree with him, the abolition of all District Administrative Councils ("Idareh Medjlissleri"). He declares them to be the greatest impediment to the executive authority, and that the best-intentioned Mutesariff or Kaïmakam is powerless to act with impartiality because of the ties and interests of the several members of these Medjlisses. He suggests in their place a Provincial Council to meet once a-year at the capital of the province to propose and discuss the necessary changes and improvements, but that it should be merely a deliberative council and not interfere with the executive power.

Constant Pasha also remarked that some reform was most desirable in the Customs Department of this province. Is is well known that not one-third of the amount realized by the Customs duties ever reaches the Imperial Treasury. At the present moment there is a society of merchants who are ready to take over the Department and to pay the Government double the amount hitherto received. This offer might, perhaps, be advantageously accepted for a short term of years, with the stipulation that correct accounts be kept, and that their books be liable to Government inspection. In a few years, say three, it would be seen what the Customs revenue really come to, and either a fresh arrangement might then be entered into, or the Department might, after this experience, be taken over again by the Government with a staff of competent officials ready to hand, and a better chance of checking fraud in the future.

The reforms I have alluded to are of course only a few amongst many others that are needful, but having been suggested to me by my late conversation with Constant Pasha, I offer them for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 491.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, May* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in conversation a few days ago with the Governor-General of Bosnia, he expressed to me his anxiety to liberate some of the numerous political prisoners here who have been arrested and confined by the military authorities since the country was subjected to martial law. His Excellency has written, I believe, on the subject to the Porte, but can obtain no reply. He says he is perfectly aware that many of these unfortunate persons were arrested for the most trivial reasons and on very slight suspicion; and that if the Government would authorize him to institute an inquiry into the accusations brought against them, the greater number would probably obtain immediate release. Without an order, however, from the Porte, he cannot interfere.

Amongst the prisoners here there are, or were, five Servians—pandours, taken, I believe, in the neighbourhood of Visegrad. It was rumoured a few days ago that finally they were to be released. These prisoners of war have been confined in the same prison and ward with common criminals, and have received nothing but a daily allowance of 300 drachms (2 lbs.) of bread. This treatment stands out in marked contrast to that experienced by the Turkish prisoners in Servia. Numbers of these latter, who have been lately liberated, arrive here daily, and are loud in their praises of their treatment by the Servians. They state that they were well fed and housed, and that on Sundays the Servian ladies used to distribute tobacco among them. Here, on the contrary, they are already forced to beg alms in the town. The authorities are in the greatest straits for funds to meet even the current military expenses of the province. No one can any longer be found to accept contracts for the provisioning of the army; and I know as a fact that latterly, at Visegrad, the troops were receiving nothing but rations of mouldy dates. In case of a renewal of the war it would be impossible under existing circumstances for the troops in Bosnia to take the field. Any further call on the Mussulmans of this province for either men or money would also, I fear, meet but a feeble response. They are completely disheartened, and would, I am assured, regard a foreign occupation of the country with unfeigned pleasure. I even notice lately a much better feeling towards Montenegro. This is the result of the humane and considerate conduct of the Prince towards the inhabitants of Nichsich when that place surrendered last autumn. It is true the greater part of the Moslem population, influenced by the Turkish authorities and by promises of assistance that have not been kept, quitted the town; but they now bitterly repent having done so, and many are returning convinced that they will be better off under "their Prince," as they do not hesitate to call Prince Nicholas, than they have found themselves under the rule of the Sultan.

During my late journey I frequently in conversation with the Mussulmans of those districts ceded to Montenegro by the Treaty of San Stefano asked them whether they were aware that they were destined to become Montenegrin subjects? I was surprised to see how little effect this impending change seemed to make on them. They simply asked if it was really true, and some remarked that if their country was to be detached from the Ottoman Empire they would prefer annexation to Austria. I think, however, that the Mussulmans have far less antipathy to Montenegro than to Servia. They have not forgotten that all Mahommedans living in Servia were forced only a few years ago to abandon their homes and quit the country. This was a fatal error on the part of Servia; as the Mussulmans fear that in the event of the annexation of Bosnia to Servia they also might be deprived of their possessions and driven from the country.

I am told that the chief Mussulmans of Novi-Bazar and other districts ceded to Servia and Montenegro have written to the leading Mussulmans of this town protesting against the proposed cessions. The chief objection, however, appears to be their separation from the rest of Bosnia, and not their annexation to Servia or Montenegro. They state that they are one nation with their co-religionists in the rest of the province, and will only accept the same fate as they. The people of Serajevo, I hear, have answered that nothing appears at present to be decided, and that they need not therefore for the moment make themselves uneasy, and that they fully appreciate, and are ready to further at the opportune instant, their desire to be united under one Government. They have carefully abstained, it seems, from saying anything that indicates aversion to a change of sovereignty, but object to any partition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 492.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 20.*)

(No. 31. Political.)
Bosna Serai, May 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, of the 7th instant, regarding the return of fugitives to the Herzegovina.

As I have frequently reported to the Earl of Derby, no return *en masse* of the fugitives can be expected until some very decided change takes place in the administration of government, or unless there be a foreign occupation of the country.

The Porte has lately asked the Governor-General of Bosnia whether, in the event of the fugitives being willing to return, the Mussulman proprietors would rebuild their

cottages and provide them with what is necessary to recommence agricultural operations. Some of the Mussulmans have stated their readiness to do so, and probably a reply in that sense will be sent to Constantinople; but others—men whose word I can reply upon—have assured me personally that by far the greater majority will not and cannot incur the necessary expense. In the first place, they have no faith in the Government or in the restoration of tranquillity, and are not therefore willing to risk further losses than those they have been already subjected to. In the next, though many Beys are owners of extensive lands, very few can command the necessary ready money to rebuild perhaps some hundreds of cottages and to supply cattle, implements, and seed to re-start the peasants in life. There is no doubt that the Mussulman landowners are sincerely anxious for the return of the Christians, as their prolonged absence entails on them incalculable loss, and were a secure and better administration established in the province, they would, I have no doubt, as far as their means permitted, incur any requisite expense; but ruined as many of them are by recent events, it is impossible that they can at once and without aid do all that is necessary for the re-establishment of the large numbers of peasants now fugitives from their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 492.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Mostar, May 7, 1878.

Sir,

IT was reported here at beginning of the month that orders had been received from Constantinople to prepare for return of the fugitives from Dalmatia.

The local Moslem proprietors are said to be willing to receive the fugitives in their former districts, and those having empty houses would allow the fugitives to occupy them till other cottages could be built.

The scarcity of wood in the Herzegovina is a difficulty to the rebuilding of the cottages, as roof-timber must be brought from a distance, and the Beys having already lost considerably by the flight of the rayahs, do not feel inclined to incur any great outlay whilst the future Government of the country is unsettled.

Whether the Turkish Government will do anything is not known, but the difficulty in paying for the soldiers' rations during the past few months does not promise well of the resources of the treasury in Herzegovina.

The Mutesariff is visiting Ljubushi, Pociteli, Stolac, and Nevesinje, and in his absence it is impossible to obtain authentic information of the intentions of Government. His tour is supposed to have something to do with the return of the fugitives, but up to the present no measures for their reception have been adopted.

A few men, unaccompanied by their families, are reported to have returned on the Trebinjrica frontier, and service is said to have been performed in a deserted Orthodox Church.

A Christian is reported to have been murdered at Gabella, near Metkovic, but it is not supposed to have any connection with the insurrectionary movements.

Nothing more has been heard of the threatened dissent of Ljubushi, mentioned in my despatch of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 493.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 20.*)

(No. 19. Political.)
Salonica, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch No. 42 of the 26th April, 1878, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the serious illness of the Governor-General and the difficulties attendant on the embarkation of Circassian families for Asia Minor and for Syria, and a copy of the Proclamation of Amnesty for Volo by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 493.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, April 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the serious illness of our Vali, Ibrahim Pasha, from an attack of apoplectic paralysis.

An Austrian Lloyd's steamer has taken away many Circassian families, and another is now embarking others. Some difficulties occurred with these last. As there were some with small-pox, the captain refused to take them, and sent the boats on shore. The vessels were overcrowded, owing to the Circassians climbing up the sides, and some were drawn up with ropes by their relations, who were unwilling to leave them behind. The difficulty lay in the fear of these poor people that they would be taken to one part of Asia and their relations to another, while other relations are unavoidably left behind from having the small-pox.

I have the honour to inclose herewith the copy in Greek of the Proclamation of Amnesty for Volo, together with a translation annexed, which I could not send in my despatch by last post from not having had time to copy it.

The Austrian frigate "Don Juan" has left for the Piræus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 493.

Proclamation of Amnesty.

(Translation.)

BY a superior order from Larissa we have to communicate to the public here that our powerful Government, in great yearning, has expressed the desirability of granting an Amnesty to the inhabitants of Volo, which had participated in the insurrection under present state of things in co-operation with the insurgents who came out from Greece.

Therefore these men are now invited to return, each of them to their respective homes, and to re-assume their usual trade and cultivation of their property, and thus lead a peaceful and orderly life as before, obeying the orders of our Government.

Volo, April $\frac{1}{13}$, 1878.

No. 494.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 90. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 10, 1878.*

MR. CONSUL SANDERSON sent me a report of the Russian movements, which he tells me he duly reported to your Lordship on the 7th instant.

I have since received from him a telegram as follows, dated Galatz, 12th May :—

"I have no information yet of the number, but no large force has crossed near Ibraila. Four thousand troops have passed towards Bucharest since the 2nd by the Bender-Galatz Railway. About 600 Cossacks passed towards Bessarabia this morning. Heavy guns continue arriving by Bucharest line; there are about forty here; several sent down the river; ten to Toultcha."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 495.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 92. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the situation in Roumania continues critical.

Prince Charles has left for the purpose of inspecting his army in Lesser Wallachia, as announced by Captain Ward's telegram of the 10th instant. The Russian Agent here had endeavoured to dissuade His Highness from absenting himself from his capital just now, but his efforts proved fruitless.

The Government of this Principality has sent in a fresh protest against the acts of Russia in this country, of which I have the honour of forwarding a copy to your Lordship inclosed in another despatch.

The most striking passage of this protest appears to me to consist in the allusion to the admission made by the Russian Agent that his Government is erecting new batteries on the Danube, with the evident intention of opposing or preventing the passage of British gun-boats.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 496.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 93. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 13, 1878.*

MY stay here has been as yet too short to enable me to give your Lordship any information on which I could entirely rely, but I venture to submit the following observations as the result of a variety of conversations with political characters residing in this capital.

The Russian concentration in this Principality is represented as aiming at the intimidation of the Prince and the Roumanian Government. The Russian force, however, is, up to this moment, quite inadequate for such a purpose, at most 35,000 to 40,000 men.

According to the best information I was able to collect, the distribution of this force evidently aims at the security of the communications between the Russian armies in European Turkey and their own country.

This leads one to suppose that the Russian Commanders do not place full reliance on their communications by sea, and that if they are so pressing to obtain possession of Varna and Shumla it is with a view to prevent an enemy from occupying these important fortresses.

With the same object the idea has been started to disarm the Roumanian army and render it innocuous; it is the opinion of military men that even in its present condition and positions this force may compel Russia to absorb an equal number of combatants in watching it, but that should this Government succeed in obtaining a supply of better arms from abroad, and of getting them through Austria (of which there appears some doubt) 60,000 Russians, a force which Russia could ill spare at this juncture, would have to be employed in observing this country.

The time for a quiet disarmament appears past, and the Russians can only meet the difficulty by employing force, and thus compelling the people here to declare themselves, or to coax the Prince and his Ministers to acquiesce in a disarmament.

The latter has become almost impossible since the Prince has given openly his consent to remove his army into Lesser Wallachia; as for resorting to force, one may be quite sure that Russia will not do anything of the kind unless in the last extremity.

A change of Ministers has likewise proved hitherto impracticable; but such is the proverbial insincerity of the public men in the countries situated in these parts, that I have met with many people who sincerely believed that M. Bratiano, after having appealed for advice and assistance to most of the Courts of Europe, will ultimately become once more the tool of Russia, and allow the army of his country to act again as her ally.

Before admitting a suspicion of this kind to enter my mind, I should like to understand clearly what public interest could induce the Prince or his Prime Minister to adopt such a course at this crisis. Whether Austria continues neutral, or assumes an attitude hostile to Russia, Roumania has no prospect of gaining anything by siding with Russia; in the former case there is no Roumanian territory she would be given by Russia as the price of her blood; in the latter she could be promised that large portion of Transylvania inhabited by a people of her own race; but no one knows better than the public men of all parties here that they would then be most certainly on the losing side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 497.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 94. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying protest of Roumania against the acts of the Russian Government on their soil, which has been addressed to the Russian Agent here, Baron Stuart, on the 6th instant.

This copy has been given me by M. Bratiano, with the express request that it may be considered as confidential, and not be presented to Parliament without his leave.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 497.

M. Cogalniceano to Baron Stuart.

M. l'Agent, *Bucarest, le* $\frac{21 \text{ Avril}}{3 \text{ Mai}}$, 1878.

EN réponse à la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, et me référant à ma note du $\frac{12}{24}$, j'ai l'honneur d'attirer votre attention sur les considérations suivantes :—

La Convention du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, 1877, a été conclue à un moment où la déclaration de guerre de l'Empire de Russie à l'Empire Ottoman, après le rejet par la Sublime Porte des résolutions de la Conférence de Constantinople pouvait être justement regardée comme l'exécution d'un mandat tacite de l'Europe. Elle avait un quadruple objet :—

1. Faciliter et assurer l'arrivée des armées Impériales en Bulgarie ;

2. Garantir envers et contre tous, à titre universel, l'intégrité territoriale et la souveraineté intérieure de la Roumanie ;

3. Empêcher, autant qu'il était au pouvoir du Gouvernement Roumain, que la Roumanie ne devînt le théâtre de la guerre. C'est la crainte de ce danger qui a déterminé la Roumanie à garder militairement le Danube contre une invasion possible des armées Ottomanes jusqu'à l'arrivée des armées Russes, et à solliciter diplomatiquement l'appui de l'Europe ;

4. Réglementer le détail des rapports et des obligations réciproques des armées Impériales et des autorités Roumaines, pendant la durée de la guerre.

La Convention n'a pas visé et ne devait pas viser l'éventualité de complications postérieures à la conclusion de la paix entre les Empires Russe et Ottoman. Elle était limitative. Approprier et étendre ses dispositions à des événements nouveaux, les interpréter ou les modifier en prévision de nécessités qui pourraient quelque jour surgir pour la Russie, c'est donc sortir de l'esprit et de la lettre des stipulations originairement intervenues, c'est aller au-delà des conditions pour lesquelles ces stipulations avaient été arrêtées.

Sans doute, le droit de passage implique le droit de retour ; le second est corrélatif au premier, et en découle par une conséquence logique. Mais le retour doit apparaître, dans les faits même qui le caractérisent, comme un simple passage en sens inverse.

Si l'ensemble des mouvements actuellement effectués en Roumanie par les troupes Impériales manifeste l'intention, non d'une marche transitoire, mais d'une installation à titre quasi-permanent, si vos propres déclarations, M. l'Agent, font une allusion des plus directes à de nouvelles combinaisons stratégiques, en vue d'événements auxquels ne saurait s'appliquer la Convention du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, on est fondé à croire et à affirmer que le passage se transforme en occupation.

Or l'écoulement des troupes Impériales vers la frontière Russe n'est pas proportionnel à leur rentrée sur le sol Roumain.

On ne constate pas qu'il y ait, comme pour un simple passage dans un but de retour, succession de différentes fractions par voie d'étapes régulières. Le nombre de ces troupes augmente. L'esprit systématique qui préside à leur répartition, les mesures qui entourent leur présence, la formation de dépôts sur divers points, l'exécution de travaux militaires selon les règles techniques, indiquent une prolongation anormale de séjour et des projets d'établissement durable. Ainsi, la IIème division d'infanterie, annoncée comme de passage, reste depuis un mois distribuée au sud de Bucarest, sans qu'aucun obstacle matériel, indépendant de sa volonté, ait entravé sa marche et l'ait obligée à un si long arrêt.

Une brigade venant de Giurgevo est signalée officiellement, et va s'échelonner à l'ouest de la capitale.

Quotidiennement il arrive soit de Bulgarie, soit même de Russie, des forces qui se meuvent selon des plans coordonnés.

D'autre part, pour expliquer l'apparition et la disposition récente de troupes Impériales dans les régions du Bas-Danube, vous attestez "l'impérieuse nécessité de se préparer à la défense de l'entrée du Danube et de parer à une invasion hostile dans ce fleuve, du côté de la Mer." Plus loin, vous mentionnez "le détachement désigné pour élever en cas de besoin des batteries indispensables."

Vous conviendrez, M. l'Agent, que devant de tels faits et de telles déclarations, les préoccupations du pays sont légitimes.

Quelle est, en effet, la position de la Roumanie par rapport à la période passée et présente? Alors que la Principauté était considérée comme dépendante de l'Empire Ottoman, la Russie, par égard pour ses droits réels, a conclu avec elle une Convention relative au passage de ses troupes. Bientôt la Roumanie proclame son indépendance sous les yeux de la Russie, qui reconnaît d'abord implicitement cette indépendance, puisque, loin d'élever la moindre objection, elle lui donne son approbation de fait par les relations de tout ordre qu'elle entretient avec elle, et qui la consacre ensuite explicitement, dans son Traité avec la Sublime Porte.

La signature et la ratification de ce Traité mettent fin à la guerre pour laquelle la Russie avait stipulé son accès en Roumanie.

Mais la Russie s'attend à de nouvelles complications, et ce n'est plus du côté de la Turquie que ces complications s'annoncent. Aussitôt, sans accord et sans information préalables, la Russie emploie le pays Roumain, pays indépendant, pour y former de nouveaux plans stratégiques, pour y déclarer ou y accepter une nouvelle guerre, tandis que, légalement, il ne devrait plus désormais lui servir qu'à rapatrier à bref délai ses troupes les plus voisines de nos frontières.

Si la Roumanie gardait le silence sur cette violation de son indépendance et de sa souveraineté, elle semblerait y consentir, et autoriser toute autre Puissance à user à son égard de procédés analogues. En effet, abandonner, sans mot dire, son territoire aux évolutions militaires de la Russie menacée ou menaçante, ce serait l'ouvrir aux armées de toute autre Puissance qui trouverait le sol Roumain à sa convenance comme champ de bataille.

La Russie ne peut vouloir faire en Roumanie ce qui ne lui agréerait pas de la part d'un autre Etat ; elle ne peut exiger que la Roumanie accepte d'elle ce qu'elle lui reprocherait de tolérer de la part d'autrui.

La Roumanie doit éviter de se compromettre vis-à-vis de l'Europe, envers qui elle est liée par des obligations de gratitude et de déférence, et par des intérêts essentiels. En outre, elle est tenue, comme Etat indépendant mais d'importance secondaire, de s'abstenir, en présence de conflits possibles entre Grandes Puissances, de tout ce qui pourrait, activement ou passivement, altérer ses devoirs de rigoureuse neutralité. Sortie de cette neutralité pour sa propre cause, elle a le ferme dessein de s'y renfermer désormais strictement, et ce serait ne pas rester neutre que de subir, sans protester, l'installation d'armées étrangères sur le sol Roumain en vue d'opérations militaires auxquelles la Roumanie n'a pas à participer.

En conséquence, le Gouvernement Roumain se croit en droit et en devoir de demander itérativement que la Convention du $\frac{4}{16}$ Avril, 1877, en raison de l'état de paix entre les Empires Russe et Ottoman, suive mais ne dépasse pas le cours qu'elle doit avoir.

La transgression des stipulations de cet instrument dans le sens d'un établissement durable des armées Impériales en Roumanie équivaudrait à une occupation du pays, avec violation de son indépendance et de sa souveraineté.

Atteinte dans ses droits les plus chers, la Roumanie se voit contrainte de formuler pour la seconde fois sa protestation envers le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie.

Le Cabinet Roumain, à qui incombent les plus graves responsabilités vis-à-vis des Chambres dont la réouverture se fait aujourd'hui même, et du pays dont l'attente est anxieuse, se flatte de l'espoir que le Cabinet Impérial, appréciant l'urgence qu'il y a à calmer les inquiétudes universellement et légitimement excitées par la situation présente, ordonnera l'adoption de mesures qui restitueraient au passage des armées Impériales par la Roumanie son caractère Conventionnel de transition et ramèneraient un ordre de choses complétement normal.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 498.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 95. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 13, 1878.*

I BEG leave to forward the accompanying Confidential Report, drawn up by Captain Gill, R.E., and Lieutenant Ross, and addressed to Colonel Home, R.E., C.B., for transmission.

These officers left this last night on their way home viâ Craiova and Turnu Severin, and then Vienna; in this way they will have an opportunity of seeing something of the Roumanian army, which is concentrated in that neighbourhood in Lesser Wallachia, and which the Prince is now inspecting.

There are no Russian troops in those localities, and no possible inconvenience can arise from their presence there; quite the contrary, by a delay of three days at the most they will be able to complete the object of their tour, and I should have regretted very much if this had not been possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 498.

Captain Gill and Lieutenant Ross to Colonel Home.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Bucharest, May 12, 1878.*

WE have the honour to report that we have heard that the Russians are at the present moment reinforcing their army in Roumania by one division. We have not been able to learn to what army corps it belongs. It is reported to be on the march from Kishineff, and is now at Bender. It is commanded by General Mavros. 10,000 reserves are being now transported by rail through Roumania to Giurgevo, thence to Bulgarin.

We heard that Zimmermann's 14th Corps had commenced its passage at Braila from the Dobrudscha. But this was not the case; how is it probable that any such movement can take place until Shumla and Varna are evacuated?

On the 3rd instant we also telegraphed that orders given six weeks ago for the removal of the Russian troops to Jassy, and which were subsequently cancelled, had been renewed. We telegraphed that these reputed movements were probably a northward move of the 11th Corps. We heard that the Russians were executing this movement, and had reached Bolentino on the old road to Pitesti. It appears, however, that no great changes of Russian positions and strength have taken place, and that things in the whole of Roumania remain pretty nearly as they were. Any changes of position towards the Pitesti road and railway would naturally be of great importance, as the Russians could thereby cut off the communications of the Roumanian army with the capital. Thus small modifications in the positions of the Russian troops were exaggerated, and the Roumanians evidently at first believed that some crisis was at hand.

According to English newspapers, we perceive that there seems to be an idea at home that the Russians have been for some time in possession of Pitesti. This is not the case, as that place and Tergovesten are still occupied by Roumanian cavalry.

We heard some time ago that ninety trains had been ordered by the Russian Government for the transport of troops westward. At present from one to two trains daily pass Bucharest southwards, with reinforcements to supply the army, also to convey the 10,000 reserves on their way south. One or two sanitary trains return daily towards Russia.

The Russians are reported to be fortifying their positions on the Lower Danube. They have also prepared torpedoes and other obstructions, stones, &c., to close the navigation of the river, in case of necessity.—*Vide* Report No. 9.

In a previous report it was stated that there were no Russian fortifications at Fokshani, but that the construction of rifle butts had given rise to the rumour.

This is absolutely confirmed, although we understood that field-works were really commenced, but that the Russians replied to a remonstrance from the Roumanian Government by asserting that they were only rifle butts.

Even if this be true, the work has certainly been suspended, as the place is not as yet fortified.

Russian officers have, however, been making reconnaissances there and at Pitesti Ploesci, and of the passes over the Carpathians.

We hear that a few of the new Krupp guns ordered by the Russian Government have arrived at Benarchi, the fresh division at Bender having two batteries (16 guns) of these. The Russian Government are also said to be re-arming their whole force with the Berdan rifle, which is already said to be supplied to the division at Bender, but we cannot say how long it will be before the remainder of the troops get the new rifle. The Kranka is still the only weapon seen.

We have already had occasion to report on the Roumanian army, and the number of recruits belonging to this year's contingent, by which the present forces will be raised to nearly 60,000 men.

In fact there is no want of men, and in the case of an emergency the Government could raise their troops to 80,000, by calling out the militia, which is available for service in the case of invasion, and a Russian war would have that character.

We would, however, point out the two great defects of the Roumanian army:—

First.—The want of an organized train.

This was dealt with in Report No. 1. The want of field transport would confine the operations of the Roumanians to their own country. In this part of the theatre of war the defect would not be of very great importance, for Bucharest is so vital a point in the Russian line of communications, that action in Roumania is all that could be required of the Roumanian army, which, even without moving from its defensive position, must hold in check a force greater than its own.

Secondly.—The want of arms.

To thoroughly equip the Roumanian army with a new rifle, between 60,000 and 100,000 stand of arms would be required. The Government has already about 25,000 Peabody and 25,000 Kranka, besides some thousands of the old Prussian needle-gun. They have, moreover, in ammunition, some 500 rounds per rifle in store. It so happens that no more Peabody rifles of the same calibre as that of their present weapon are to be procured, and thus, to increase their armament, another description of rifle must be added to their present stock.

For an emergency the Roumanians have a sufficient armament to make a good resistance, unless overpowered by a much more numerous enemy than is at present opposed to it.

But in order to give the whole army one sort of rifle, and to be in a position to increase the effective strength of the combatants—only kept at its present low number by the want of arms—the Government proposes (and has already voted 5,000,000 fr. for the army) to buy in Paris 33,000 Peabody rifles, which were used by the French in the late Franco-German war, and which are of a larger bore than the Peabody rifles in the army here.

When this new weapon, with the ammunition, is supplied, the barrel of those they now have will be changed at a small cost of 15 fr. each, and thus the Roumanians will have nearly 60,000 new Peabody rifles, the number of which they can always increase should they have the money.

Arms and ammunition can at present only come to Roumania through Austria.

The long line of Russian communications through this country is so exposed that the army of the Czar will be placed in the greatest danger if they have a hostile force on their flank.

It is very evident, therefore, that the Russians will try to settle the Roumanian difficulty before they have to engage in a war with England. Should they succeed in this, either by diplomacy or force, their position here would be secure (neglecting, of course, Austria), and in a war with England they would have a far better chance of success. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the Russians should not be permitted to deal first with the Roumanians and then enter into a conflict with Great Britain.

No one can remain a few days in Bucharest without perceiving that the Russians are using every effort to induce the Roumanian Government to come to some sort of agreement with them.

Although questions of a purely political character do not enter into the zone of our observations we nevertheless feel it our duty to bring the facts before you, for the efforts of the Russian Government to bring about the desired result show how well they know the danger of their military position.

Failing an entirely regular and pacific solution of the problem, the following are the means by which Russia might attempt to secure for herself immunity in this quarter.

She might, by the secret agents she has in numbers in this capital, and with the aid of the villains from which no place is free, stir up an émeute in the town, and under pretext of quelling the insurrection, establish a new Government entirely devoted to her interests.

The army would thus be disbanded by a nominally Roumanian authority, and the whole country subjected to a Russian occupation.

She might adopt military means, either by attacking the Roumanian army in front or by endeavouring to turn the line of the Aluta by an attack (aided by Servia) towards Kalafat.

It is not probable that the Russians will attempt the latter alternative. They would have to leave their lines of operation exposed while making a long détour to get round by Widdin. It is believed here also that there are very few Russian troops in that direction, and certainly everything tends to show that the concentration (if one is contemplated) will be between Bucharest and the Pruth rather than towards Servia.

On the other hand, should the Russians attack the Aluta in front, even with superior forces, it is very probable that the Roumanians would make an obstinate and effective resistance. The country, as has been mentioned in a former report, is said to be most defensive, and as the Russians are armed with inferior weapons it would take a large force to storm the lines taken up by the Roumanians.

If, however, we examine the forces at the disposal of the Russians, it will be seen that an attack on the Aluta has not at present much prospect of success.

As long as Varna and Shumla are occupied by the Turks, the Russians cannot withdraw any large proportion of the army corps now south of the Danube.

The 14th must remain in the Dobrudscha to oppose the possible landing of an English force at Varna.

The 7th cannot be withdrawn from its position in Bessarabia and Moldavia, for the Russians feel themselves the vital necessity of protecting the mouths of the Danube.

The decimated battalions of the 12th and 13th Corps, and the fourteen battalions of reserves, cannot be considered too many to occupy the fortresses in Bulgaria and protect the attenuated line of communications.

But supposing that the 10,000 reserves that are now marching southward are considered a sufficient reinforcement to permit of the movement of either the 12th or 13th Corps into Roumania, there would only then be two Corps, the 11th and one other (probably the 13th), besides reserves, to oppose the Roumanians. The Russian force would then certainly not exceed 40,000 combatants, which, when opposed to the Roumanian army, cannot be considered as a sufficient force.

(Signed) WILLIAM GILL, *Captain, R.E.*
JOHN ROSS, *of Bladensburg,*
Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards.

Russian Troops in Roumania and Turkey in Europe.

No. 1.—*North of the Danube.*

(A.)—Troops in Bessarabia and Moldavia, on the Danube between Braila, Galatz, Reni, Ismail, Bolgrad, Kiba-Vilkof:—

The 36th Division of the 7th Corps, and a few battalions of reserves.

Fokshani and Jassy, a few battalions of reserves.

These were previously estimated (*vide* previous Reports) at about 20,000 men, but that number in all probability included some, or a large proportion, of 10,000 reserves, that are now reported to be marching southward (*vide* further on, page 4, No. 2, Troops between the Danube and the Balkans.)

In these districts there are 84 guns and 13 squadrons of cavalry. Four of these squadrons are said to be on the march to Bucharest.

(B.)—Troops in the neighbourhood of Bucharest and Giurgevo:—

The 11th Army Corps and some battalions of reserve, extending between Giurgevo, Fratesti, Baniassa, Comana, Calugareni, Dobreni, Videa, Copoceni, Bragadia, and up towards Bolentino.

This 11th Corps consists of two divisions—the 11th and 32nd; one regiment of the 32nd Division is wanting, also 16 guns.

The 11th Division (General Putersewsky).

This division and reserve battalion are between Bolentino and Baniassa.

The divisional troops consist of—

41st Regiment, of 3 battalions; 42nd ditto, of 3 battalions; 43rd ditto, of 3 battalions; 44th ditto, of 3 battalions. Total, 12 battalions.

2 regiments of Cossacks; 1 regiment of dragoons; 1 regiment of hussars. Total, 20 squadrons.

6 batteries field artillery, 48 guns; 2 batteries horse artillery, 12 guns.

The 32nd Division, Giurgevo (General Aller).

This division consists of—

3 regiments infantry, of 3 battalions. Total, 9 battalions.
1 regiment Cossacks. Total, 6 squadrons.
4 batteries field artillery. Total, 32 guns.

Total, 11th Corps:—

21 battalions infantry.
26 squadrons cavalry.
92 guns.

There are besides the above, cavalry depôts and one battalion of reserves at Alexandria.

Total troops in Roumania:—

33 battalions infantry divisional troops, 10 battalions reserves, total, 43 battalions infantry; 39 squadrons cavalry; 176 guns; about 4,000 depôt horses.

It is said that the 21st Division is incorporated with the 11th Corps; this would increase the forces by 12 battalions; we can find, however, no trace of this division having left Russia.

In driving round the village where it is said to be quartered the numbers on the shoulders of the men's tunics were all of the 11th Division.

It is probable, however, that some battalions are formed into an irregular division, which might raise the infantry to 55 battalions.

The total number of combatants cannot, however, exceed 3 on the most liberal computation, which may possibly be increased to by the Intendance and other non-combatants.

No. 2.—*Troops between the Danube and the Balkans.*

12th and 13th Army Corps at Rustchuk and neighbourhood, 14th ditto, in the Dobrudscha.

14 battalions of reserve.

Besides the above, 10,000 men of reserves are being brought from Russia by train to Giurgevo, probably for Bulgaria. This movement is now progressing.

12th Corps, 12th and 33rd Divisions.
13th Corps, 1st Division and another.
14th Corps, 17th and 18th Divisions.
14 battalions reserve.

Total, excluding the 10,000 reserves now coming south, is 86 battalions infantry, 54 squadrons cavalry, 324 guns: total men, 50,000 to 55,000.

Until the Turks evacuate Shumla and Varna it does not seem possible that the Russians can send any of these troops north.

No. 3.—*Troops South of the Balkans.*

Guards, 3 divisions.
Grenadiers, 2 divisions.
8th Corps, 9th and 14th Divisions.
14th Corps, 16th and 30th Divisions.
2nd, 3rd, 24th, and 26th Divisions.
2 brigades rifles.

Total: infantry, 203 battalions; cavalry, 158 squadrons; artillery, 816 guns; mountain guns, 12; mitrailleuses, 16.

This force is reckoned at somewhat more than 100,000 men. The reserve battalions are stronger than those properly belonging to the divisions.

Total forces out of Russia not more than 200,000 men, besides 10,000 reserves *en route* for Bulgaria through Roumania, and we understand that there is a fresh division commanded by General Mavros, destination unknown; it is now at Bender.

The Russians crossed the Danube with 120,000 horses; this number included every-

thing, cavalry, artillery, and train, not contract. Of these they lost about 60,000; very few have been replaced. Fresh horses are ordered.

No. 499.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 20.*)

(No. 26. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, May 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to the accompanying copy of a despatch received from Mr. Wyndham on the night of the 13th instant, and in conformity with the suggestions therein conveyed, I have the honour to report that I hastened to address a telegram to the Vice-Consul at St. Maura, instructing him to proceed at once to Vouizza and Carvassarà, to place himself in communication with the Epirote refugees there congregated, and to point out to them that, on the faith of the Sultan's amnesty, they might fearlessly return to their homes, and without dread of future molestation.

2. I was the more convinced of the propriety of this step, from having received a report from the Vice-Consul by the mail of the 12th instant, stating that, although the fact of the amnesty having been issued was known on the frontier, arguments were being used to prevent the refugees from returning to their own territory till such time as the Russian Consul should be reinstated in his post at Arta, whose protection they were being taught to believe was absolutely necessary to insure their future safety.

In view of this latter circumstance I respectfully trust your Lordship will feel enabled to approve of the corrective expedient I have thus thought it my duty to adopt.

3. I had yesterday an opportunity of discussing with the Nomarch the subject of the amnesty, and the desirableness of expediting the return of the refugees in this island (598 in number), to their old homes, and this more especially as the season was favourable for laying down the spring crops and for repairing their houses.

4. To these arguments the Nomarch had nothing to object, but he expressed strong doubts respecting the treatment the refugees might receive from the lawless Turkish irregulars, who, it is believed, are still roaming about in the recently disturbed districts, and in confirmation of this view of the case, he mentioned that two Christian villagers, held prisoners at Delvino, although released a few days ago in terms of the amnesty, had been waylaid and murdered on the road to their homes.

5. On the supposition, therefore, that the rumoured atrocity might be true in fact, I suggested the expedient of dispatching to the district a certain number of the male refugees not compromised in the late rising, in order to test the dispositions of the local authorities before sending back the women and children in a body. This the Nomarch promised should be done, but some days must elapse before the results of the experiment can be known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 499.

Mr. Wyndham to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Athens, May 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to state that on the 8th instant I telegraphed to you to inform you that by a telegram dated the 6th instant, Mr. Layard had informed me that the Porte had proclaimed a general amnesty, and had forwarded instructions to the Governors of Epirus and Thessaly to extend it specially to the refugees in Greece.

I did this in order to enable you, if you thought fit to do so, to make use of this information to persuade the refugees at Corfu who, I am told by the Government, number about 6,000, to return to their homes, and I at the same time begged you to communicate this information to the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, in order that he should, if he thought advisable, make use of it to induce the refugees in Acarnania who, I am told, amount to about 1,500, to return to their homes. It is very desirable that they should do so, and Her Majesty's Government has approved of instructions which I sent to Messrs. Merlin and Blunt, to endeavour to prevail upon the refugees in Greece in the neighbourhood of Lamia, to return home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 499.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to Vice-Consul Onofrio.

(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, May 13, 1878, 8 P.M.*

PROCEED forthwith to Vouizza and Carvassarà. Inform refugees from Epirus that an ample amnesty has been proclaimed by the Sultan, and that they may return without fear to their own territory, where their safety is guaranteed. Reply.

Inclosure 3 in No. 499.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Telegraphic.) *Santa Maura, May , 1878.*

YOUR telegram just received; will start on mission early to-morrow.

No. 500.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 20.*)

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Stockholm, May 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45 of the 17th May, 1877, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, in translation, an announcement which appeared in yesterday's number of the official journal, respecting a sum of 2,000,000 kroner (111,000*l.*), which the King has requested the Diet to place at his disposal to maintain the neutrality of Sweden, in the event of war breaking out between Great Britain and Russia, when the Diet is not in session.

This measure is a pure formality prescribed by section 63 of the Fundamental Law, whenever there is a likelihood of peace being disturbed. On the last occasion, just a year ago, on which it was voted, the money remained altogether unexpended in the hands of Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 500.

Extract from "Post och Inrikes Tidningar" of May 15, 1878.

(Translation.)

A ROYAL proposition, asking for a credit to be used, should necessity arise, for the maintenance of neutrality, has this day been presented to both Chambers of the Diet in the following terms:—

In spite of the hopes afforded by pending negotiations of a peaceful solution of the questions now at issue between two of the Great Powers of Europe, all apprehensions are unfortunately not as yet dispelled as to the outbreak of a war, the scene of which would probably be partly in our neighbourhood. Under such circumstances, for the maintenance of the neutral position of the United Kingdoms, which His Majesty is determined to uphold, measures may be necessary, for the execution of which, in so far as Sweden is concerned, His Majesty considers that funds should be available without a special meeting of the Diet. His Majesty, therefore, seeing that the sum which the Diet, in accordance with section 33 of the Constitution, has fixed without regard to war, to be available for the protection of the realm and for other purposes, was decided upon without taking into consideration the general political situation, now proposes that the Diet should, like the former Diet, vote a further credit of 2,000,000 kronor which, after the whole Council of State have made known their views on the subject, His Majesty may in case of necessity, dispose of for measures to maintain the neutrality of the country.

When the question was brought forward yesterday, his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs said:—

At the close of the last Diet, with a view to what was then the political situation, I considered it my duty to call your Majesty's attention to the importance of an early preparation of funds to serve, amongst other things, for the fulfilment of the international obligations

which devolve upon neutral Powers; and your Majesty was consequently pleased to send a proposition to the Diet concerning the grant of a credit which, in case of necessity, might serve for the maintenance of neutrality.

Since then a war has taken place in Eastern Europe which, being confined to the two States originally concerned, called for no extraordinary measures on the part of the United Kingdoms, in consequence of which, your Majesty was in a position, at the opening of the present Diet, to declare that the credit asked for and voted by the Diet had not been made use of.

The Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, which put an end to the state of war, has not in the meantime obtained the recognition of Europe, but threatens, on the contrary, to become a source of fresh serious complications between two of the Great Powers of Europe. Although the news received during the last few days is of a nature to strengthen the hopes of a peaceful solution of the question now at issue, the consideration of our own safety and the maintenance of our neutral position, warns us not to remain unprepared to meet the possible contingency of a war, of which the scene would probably be in part in our immediate neighbourhood.

I have therefore the honour most humbly to suggest to your Majesty to make a proposition to the Diet, similar to that of last year, as to the grant of a credit for the maintenance of neutrality.

No. 501.

Sir C. Wyke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Copenhagen, May 17, 1878.*

REFERRING to my previous number of this date, repeating my telegram in cypher (which will reach your Lordship by private hand), I have been confidentially and reliably informed that in case there is any symptoms of an English fleet being sent to the Baltic, the first-named German squadron will be retained there likewise, in order to watch their movements, instead of being sent to the Mediterranean, which has hitherto been supposed to be its destination.

This Government has always been of opinion that the neutrality of Germany would be much more favourable to Russia than to England, and more especially so in the event of any successes we might have should a war take place between the two countries.

As the sympathies of France and Austria are supposed to be on our side, Germany would naturally be alarmed at the prospect of a western coalition against Russia, which is the only Power on whose alliance the Germans could securely rely, and for this reason it is thought they would be compelled, by the force of circumstances, to side with Russia in the event of that Power being overmatched by such a coalition.

Such are the opinions entertained here, and I now report them exactly as I have heard them expressed in confidential communications made to me on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.

No. 502.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 20.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 8 Mai, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint, pour votre information, copie, avec son annexe, d'un rapport d'Aristarchi Bey, concernant les torpilles Lay que la Russie cherche à acheter aux Etats Unis.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 502.

Aristarchi Bey to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Washington, le 5 Avril,* 1878.

LA Russie s'est entendu avec M. Lay pour lui acheter 100 torpilles, de celles inventées par cet ingénieur. Mais, tandis que M. Lay désire les livrer à New York le Gouvernement Russe demande à les recevoir dans un port de la Baltique.

La difficulté tient à la crainte éprouvée par les parties de voir intercepter ces engines de destruction par la marine Anglais, au cas où, dans l'intervalle, la guerre viendrait à éclater. Il est probable que la Russie finira par assumer tous les risques.

L'Amiral Gore-Jones, qui connaît le fait, m'a déclaré se féliciter de voir les Russes préférer la torpille Lay, qui ne lui paraît pas trop dangereux. Avant un départ pour New York, où il compte résider quelque temps, pour être en mesure de surveiller de plus près les mouvements des Russes, l'Amiral Jones est venu me voir et m'a dit confidentiellement que l'Amirauté Britannique négligera rien, si la guerre survient, pour saisir en pleine mer des armes, munitions, et torpilles que les Russes pourraient valoir faire venir des Etats Unis.

L'Amiral se proposait de rentrer en Angleterre, mais il a reçu ordre de rester.

D'autre part, une agence télégraphique Russe, ayant essayé de propager la croyance que la Russie reçoit beaucoup de demandes des Etats Unis pour des lettres de marque, mais qu'elles ne les a pas acceptées jusqu'à présent, quelques journaux et surtout le "New York Herald" déclarent qu'ils ne savent pas si quelques aventuriers ont fait de pareilles propositions.

En tous cas, si les sympathies populaires se porteront du côté de la Russie, les Etats Unis tiendront l'œuil ouvert à ce que leurs ports ne servent pas de repaires à des corsaires.

Le Gouvernement Américain, dit le journal, sera loyalement neutre, et ne cherchera pas à nuire à l'Angleterre.

Je soumets à votre Excellence la traduction de la principale partie de cet article.

Le Gouvernement Britannique fait acheter, pour les services de son armée, un grand nombre de chevaux au Canada. Les chevaux sont expédiés pour la plupart des Etats Unis.

Daignez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 502.

Newspaper Extract.

LA NEUTRALITÉ AMÉRICAINE.—Nous empruntons au "Herald" un article très curieux qui, à d'autres mérites, joint celui d'une franchise sans détour. Nous le reproduisons en entier parce qu'il nous paraît refléter exactement le sentiment général, et qu'il peint bien le caractère Américain, avec les sous-entendus, comme de raison, que chacun peut lire entre les lignes. En voici la traduction littérale:—

"Si la guerre a véritablement lieu, nous ne doutons pas que les sympathies du peuple Américain seront avec la Russie, comme elles l'ont été jusqu'à présent dans cette guerre pour le Christianisme, et comme elles l'étaient dans une précédente guerre avec la Grande Bretagne. Ayant, dans nos propres guerres avec l'Angleterre, fait l'expérience de son arrogance, de son injustice et de son dédain de la simple humanité; ayant apprécié, au temps de nos embarras, ce qu'est son mauvais vouloir, et ayant appris combien toutes ses pompeuses déclarations touchant la neutralité et les vertus cardinales sont un pur masque à un esprit malfaisant et mercénaire, la sympathie de notre peuple se porte instinctivement et irrésistiblement du côté qui est contre elle. C'est là un fait que nous n'avons pas à expliquer. Notre sympathie sera à qui il nous plaira de la donner; mais nous n'avons pas la même liberté en ce qui concerne les actes qui pourraient être faits sous l'impulsion de ce sentiment. Il ne faut pas abuser de notre bonne volonté envers la Russie, de la façon dont on rapporte que quelques aventuriers se préparent déjà à l'utiliser. Il faut espérer qu'en cas de guerre le Président sera en mesure de faire garder la neutralité la plus stricte; que nos ports et nos côtes seront surveillés avec vigilance et honnêteté, de manière à rendre impossible à tout constructeur Américain de construire et d'expédier un "Alabama" Russe. Il nous sera peut-être permis de donner à nos cousins les Anglais une leçon à la fois de loi internationale et de bonne camaraderie, de leur montrer comment un gouvernement qui veut véritablement être neutre—qui ne se propose

pas de se prêter au jeu lâche et pitoyable de faire la guerre en dessous à une Puissance avec laquelle il prétend être en paix—peut imposer efficacement sa volonté à toutes les personnes sous sa juridiction.

"Stricte neutralité et application rigoureuse et de bonne foi de la neutralité que nous proclamons, c'est non-seulement la conduite indiquée par la considération pour notre propre honneur et pour nos obligations envers une nation avec laquelle nous sommes en paix, mais c'est aussi le rôle de bonne politique. Il y a des difficultés à observer la neutralité sans nuire au commerce, auquel la guerre donnera une grande impulsion; mais elles ne sont pas insurmontables, et le Gouvernement devrait se préparer pour une éventualité dont la réalisation est aussi probable. On peut compter à cet égard sur quelque bon service de notre marine. Il n'est guère besoin que nos flottes de la Méditerranée et du Pacifique restent dans leurs stations étrangères, et elles auraient beaucoup à faire plus près de chez nous. Avec ces navires faisant une bonne police des eaux près de notre côte, l'honneur et les intérêts matériels du pays ne peuvent pas être compromis par les plans d'aventuriers étrangers ayant pour seul but leur gain particulier. Notre politique est d'être neutres dans la guerre et impartiaux dans notre empressement à fournir aux deux belligérants les cartouches, la poudre, les grains, provisions et tous autres produits de ce pays qu'ils désireront acheter. C'est ainsi que nous devons être utiles à nos amis et à nous-mêmes. Mais si nous nous écartons de ces transactions correctes et que nous permettions à quelques-uns de nos citoyens de gagner 50, 60, ou même 100 pour cent, en construisant et équipant des navires à expédier de nos ports comme bâtiments de guerre ou corsaires Russes, non-seulement nous perdrons l'avantage légitime pouvant résulter d'une grande impulsion au commerce et à l'industrie, mais de plus nous nous placerons en relations désagréables avec notre ancien ennemi de 1812 et 1776. Et bien que nous puissions peut-être mener très bien nos affaires, sans avoir à craindre les descentes sur nos villes qui ont caractérisé ces guerres, le mieux est de fournir pas même un prétexte à une juste plainte. Non-seulement nous ne voulons pas nous brouiller avec une Puissance étrangère, mais nous ne voulons même pas être en faute flagrante."

No. 503.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 20.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May 18, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter of the 9th instant, from the commanding officer of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," reporting having left the Danube at the request of Colonel Siborne, the presence of that vessel being no longer required there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 503.

Commander Musgrave to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *"Cockatrice," at Ismid, May 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, having received a letter from Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Danube, a copy of which I inclose, I left Sulina on the 6th instant, and arrived at Constantinople yesterday morning.

2. On the day of my departure from Sulina the Russian military force there was increased by 250 infantry from the village of Letti, and it was said that a large body of engineers was expected, to be used in the erection of earthworks.

3. In obedience to your orders, I completed with coal at Constantinople, left there last evening, and beg to report my arrival to join your flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHER J. W. MUSGRAVE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 503.

Colonel Siborne to Commander Musgrave.

Sir, *Sulina, May 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, as far as the Danube Commission is concerned, the presence of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" in the river is considered, under existing circumstances, to be unnecessary.

It is, moreover, in some other respects, extremely undesirable, and I therefore have to request you, if consistent with any other duties which may have been entrusted to you, to leave the Danube as soon as convenient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner.

No. 504.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 491. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 19, 1878.*

SULTAN asked to see me this morning to tell me that, in consequence of the alarm occasioned by the recent movements of the Russian troops, General Todleben had proposed that Commissioners should be appointed by the Porte and himself to trace a line of demarcation, based upon present Russian positions, between two armies. His Majesty said he was opposed to any such arrangement, as it would be an admission on his part that the Russians had a right to occupy their present positions. The line of demarcation had been fixed at Tchataldja, and they should retire to it. I observed to His Majesty that it appeared to me of the utmost importance to keep two things in view; to avoid any collision with Russians which might lead to war, which Her Majesty's Government were so firmly endeavouring to prevent, and that if an act of war were committed which might lead to hostilities it might come from Russia and not from Turkey, who, if she provoked war, would be held responsible by Europe.

Under these circumstances, His Majesty would do well, I thought, not to reject altogether proposal of General Todleben, which might be so modified as, if accepted, not to compromise rights of Turkey. For instance, a General might be appointed on either side to take note of the positions actually held by the two armies, and a mutual understanding might be come to that they should not advance beyond them.

His Majesty received this suggestion favourably, and will, I think, act upon it.

No. 505.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 492.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 19, 1878.*

A LARGE Russian steamer, painted grey, has just passed down Bosphorus. She carried four steam-launches at the davits, one of them a long Thorneycroft, and four torpedo spars, with one slung under the bowsprit. She appeared to be very heavily manned. (Sent to Admiral.)

No. 506.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 19, 1878.*

THE steamer "City of Sydney," lately belonging to Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, was to leave San Francisco for Sydney on the 13th instant. She was sold on the 10th instant to the Panama Railway Company for 1 dollar (*sic*). It is suspected that she has really been sold to Russian agents, and may be transferred on arriving at Sydney.

No. 507.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 20, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Agent has communicated to me confidentially a telegram from his Government, stating that two Russian vessels have arrived at Tultcha with heavy guns and field pieces, warlike material and munitions; that the Russians have constructed works on the banks of the Danube to prevent passage of a hostile fleet; and that stones are being constantly transported to Sulina.

No. 508.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20, 3 P.M.)

(No. 88. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 20, 1878, 1 P.M.*

THE Diplomatic Agent of Roumania informs me that two ships laden with heavy cannon have arrived at Tultcha, which the Russians are strongly fortifying, and that large quantities of stones are being accumulated on the river banks with the view, in case of war, of again barricading the Sulina passage.

No. 509.

Sir C. Wyke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Stockholm, May 20, 1878.*

TWO Russian iron-clads from Cronstadt have proceeded to North Sea, one by the Sound, and the other by Great Belt.

No. 510.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

I HAVE seen Count Beust three times since I received your telegram No. 136; but he has not mentioned to me a word about Count Andrassy's suggestion as to an alliance.

No. 511.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

REFERRING to proposed tax for refugees, Austrian Ambassador proposes we should agree to reserve power to insist on its repeal whenever the necessity of it for this object has ceased.

Do you see any objection?

What security for its due employment shall you take?

Have you heard of proposal to extend it to other ports of Ottoman Empire?

No. 512.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 3rd instant, No. 424, and to my despatch No. 501 of the 9th instant, please report at once, by telegraph, how the negotiations

with the Porte respecting the concession to the Eastern Telegraph Company now stand.

No. 513.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to the telegram from Constantinople of the 18th instant, the Prefect of Acarnania telegraphed yesterday to the Prime Minister that no Chief named Miliski had crossed the frontiers or established a Provisional Government at Radovitz. He has telegraphed to-day that 1,300 Turks have invaded Radovitz, and burnt some of the few remaining houses, also some houses at two other villages, and that their reported intention was to burn all the other villages; that 200 inhabitants of Radovitz have fortified themselves; and that others are holding a bridge to prevent the passage of the Turks, in order to avert a terrible catastrophe.

I spoke to Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning in the sense of your telegram of yesterday, and he requested me to ask Her Majesty's Government to beg the Porte to urge their local authorities to prevent acts of violence.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 514.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 536.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 407 of the 26th ultimo, in which you reported that the Consular body at Constantinople had proposed to the heads of Missions that 2 per cent. should be added temporarily to the Custom duties levied in that city under the name of Octroi, the same to be applied in aiding the Porte in the removal of refugees, and with reference to my reply of the 29th ultimo, authorizing you to consent to this proposal, I have to inform your Excellency that the Austrian Ambassador in London has suggested that Her Majesty's Government and the Austro-Hungarian Government should agree to reserve the power to insist on the repeal of this addition to the pre-existing tax whenever the necessity of its continuance for the above-mentioned object has ceased.

I should be glad if your Excellency would inform me whether you see any objection to this suggestion, and also report to me what security you propose to take for the due employment of the funds collected by the additional tax.

I should also wish to be informed whether any proposal to extend this system of additional taxation to other ports of the Ottoman Empire has come to your Excellency's knowledge.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 515.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Stanley.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26, Political, of the 6th instant, forwarding a Report by Mr. Vice-Consul Webster, showing the excessive amount of the indemnity claimed by Russia from Turkey, in consideration of the damage done to the south-coast of Russia, to her export commerce, to her industry, and to her railways; and I have to instruct you to express to Mr. Webster my approval of the pains taken by him in the preparation of this interesting Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 516.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Urgent and Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

IN reply to your letter, marked Urgent and Secret, of the 18th instant, inclosing a telegram from Admiral Hornby, in which he inquires whether, in the event of the Russians commencing an attack on Constantinople, the British squadron should assist in the defence, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the information which has been received at this Department from St. Petersburgh leads his Lordship to believe that an attack by the Russians is not probable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 517.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the concession granted by the Porte to the Eastern Telegraph Company, and I am also to inclose a copy of a letter which by His Lordship's direction has been addressed to Mr. Pender, the Chairman of the Company.

I am at the same time to request you to point out to their Lordships that the views attributed in your letter to Lord Salisbury, to the effect that "Her Majesty's Government have no direct interest in the concession of a line between Tenedos and Volo to the Eastern Telegraph Company," were not, in fact, directly expressed by his Lordship, but were contained in a telegram from Mr. Layard, which was alluded to in my letter of the 7th instant, in explanation of the grounds which have led the Porte to delay the ratification of the concession granted to the Company.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 518.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Mai, 1878.*

DES réfugiés au nombre de trente environ ont pénétré ce matin à l'improviste dans le jardin du Palais habité par le Sultan Murad en poussant le cri de "Vive le Sultan," sans, d'ailleurs, y joindre aucun nom. Les sentinelles préposées à la garde du Palais s'étant opposées à l'entrée de ces hommes dans l'intérieur du Palais, ceux-ci ont fait feu sur ces sentinelles, dont une a été tuée. Des troupes étant arrivées, les assaillants ont été repoussés, et, dans le tumulte, il y a eu des morts et des blessés des deux côtés. Ali Suavi, qui paraît avoir organisé et conduit cette agression, a trouvé la mort dans ce conflit. Le fait n'a pas eu d'autre suite, et la tranquillité n'a pas été troublée un seul instant dans la ville. Les individus arrêtés ont déclaré qu'ils ignoraient le but de cette agression, et qu'ils avaient obéi à un mot d'ordre. Voici la vérité tout entière, et vous pouvez donner un démenti formel à toute version qui s'en écarterait. L'instruction se poursuit. Je vous en ferai connaître le résultat.

No. 519.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received May 21.)

(Immediate and Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May 21, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram received from Commander Griffith (an officer retired from the Royal Navy), dated at Christiansand, the 21st instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 519.

Commander Griffith to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Christiansand, May 21, 1878, 11·55 A.M.*

RUSSIAN corvette, third class, here awaiting larger consort, nominally bound Amoor; probably go north Scotland.

No. 520.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, May 20, 1878.*

AT an audience granted me this morning by the Prince, His Highness complained of the hostile preparations of Turks.

I told him Pasha of Scutari had requested me to explain, on an opportunity arising, that, notwithstanding friendly assurances recently given by His Highness, the Turkish Commanders had reason to fear an attack. Thereupon the Prince requested me to telegraph to the Pasha that His Highness had given me, in my quality of English Consul, his word of honour that, should war unfortunately break out again, he would undertake no hostile movement without first giving the Pasha fifteen days' notice of his intention. His Highness expressed the hope that the Pasha would be able to return a similar assurance.

I trust your Lordship will not disapprove my having telegraphed the above to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs (?).

From my personal observations here I believe there is no desire nor preparation to renew war.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 521.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 494.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 20, 1878.*

INCIDENT which has occurred to-day has been greatly exaggerated, and at one time caused great alarm. The facts are that a deputation of about 100 refugees wished to penetrate into Chiragan Palace, Mourad's residence, on the plea of presenting petition to the reigning Sultan. The sentries at the gate, on attempting to stop them, were shot down, whereupon large numbers of troops rushed to the spot, and about fifteen or twenty of the refugees got wounded or killed in the general confusion. Tranquillity has been re-established since, and the general panic has subsided.

No. 522.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 495. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 20, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY states that he has been informed from Vienna that the most complete understanding has been come to between England and Austria, and that he has been instructed to urge immediate acceptance of the Austrian proposal about Bosnia. He has given copy of communication from his Government, of which I sent the substance in my telegram No. 473 to the Porte, and the Prime Minister has agreed to address a note to him asking for entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, but specially reserving the sovereign rights of the Sultan. This exchange of communications is to be kept quite secret for the present.

No. 523.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 496.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 21, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated to-day:—

"Porte is reducing garrison in Thessaly. Six battalions have been dispatched to Salonica, and Rejeb Pasha, with twenty more, is ordered to be ready for same destination. Besides one Italian, no Ottoman or other foreign man-of-war here."

No. 524.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *, May 21, 1878.*

CAPTAIN NAPIER writes from Serrekho, 5th May, that rumour of advance of Russian troops on Akhal had reached him from Boojnoord.

Persian Government have no knowledge of this, and Russian Minister here has assured the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs that there is no truth in the report.

Our Asterabad Agent reports, 14th May, no movement, and only small Russian force at Krasnovodsk.

No. 525.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May 21, 1878.*

AMONG the projected economies Viceroy proposes to sell some 1,600 cavalry horses, but before doing so, he has asked me if it is likely that Her Majesty's Government will require the services of his proffered Egyptian contingent. If so, he will keep the horses.

No. 526.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 21, 1878.*

CAPTAIN GILL wishes the following to be communicated to Intelligence Department of the War Office:—

"The Roumanians have moved their whole army into a new defensive position. Their left on Tergovistea, extending through Gaesti, Sinesti to Slatina; a few troops at Craiova.

"Works projected at Radovan to secure the route."

No. 527.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to Lloyds.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 21, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, inclosing a copy of a confidential communication which has been received from your agent at New York relative to the fitting-out of a vessel, supposed to be a Russian privateer, at Staten Island; and I am to express to you his Lordship's thanks for this information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 528.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received May 22.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, May 21, 1878.*

IN reference to your communication of the 20th instant, alluding to Admiral Hornby's telegram No. 106 of the 18th instant, on the anticipated Russian attack upon Constantinople, and stating that such an attack is not probable at this moment, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Marquis of Salisbury that a telegram was sent yesterday to Admiral Hornby in reply, directing him to act upon the instructions sent to him on the 21st February, viz., to take no part by force to prevent Russians from entering Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 529.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 497.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 21, 1878.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday is partly answered by my despatch No. 623. I see no objection to proposal of Austrian Ambassador. Of course, proposed tax is to cease whenever there is no longer any necessity for it. The due employment of the tax was to be superintended by an International Commission. See my despatch No. 515.

No. 530.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 21, 1878.*

STEAMER "Columbus," described in list inclosed in my despatch No. 112 of 29th ultimo, has been sold to a Russian agent and sent for equipment to Philadelphia.

No. 530*.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, May 22, 1878.*

IN spite of the speech of M. Tisza, the leaders of the Opposition do not believe that Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs will loyally co-operate with Her Majesty's Government in exacting concessions from Russia. Their information from Berlin assures them that the Austrian Government will implicitly follow Prince Bismarck's advice.

Hungarian Diet will adjourn on Friday next until 15th June.

I can see that all political parties here, Government and Opposition, seriously apprehend a separate understanding between England and Russia.

Sent to Vienna.

No. 531.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.*

I AM informed that seventy-eight Russian sailors, disguised as peasants, and four officers, with fifty heavy cases containing arms, were secretly sent from Cronstadt on the 13th instant to embark at Riga for Hamburgh, from whence they are to proceed to America.

No. 532.

Sir C. Wyke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, May 22, 1878.*

THREE-MASTED schooner, "David Babcock," under United States' flag, laden with ammunition, from New York to Cronstadt, has passed into Baltic.

No. 533.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Thornton.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 22, 1878.*

WE wish for answer to following question. If the point has not been authoritatively settled you might take Counsel's opinion.

Have United States' Government power under their law to stop a ship in the United States which they are satisfied is being equipped, or has been equipped, to cruize and commit hostilities, even though a war is not going on, and though it cannot be made to appear against what Power the ship is intended to commit hostilities?

No. 534.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 499. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 22, 1878.*

PORTE will propose a Convention to Austria for entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, number to be limited to 50,000, and the rights of sovereignty of the Sultan to be specially reserved.

I have been shown a draft of it. Count Zichy has encouraged the Turkish Government to believe that Austro-Hungarian Government would be willing to accept a Convention.

No. 535.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1878.*

ON the 4th instant your Excellency placed in my hands a Pro-Memoria containing the purport of certain reports which had reached your Excellency's Government through the Roumanian Agent at Tulcea, in regard to the threatened obstruction of the navigation of the Danube by order of the Russian authorities at San Stefano; the alleged prohibition of the export of cereals from the Dobrudscha by foreign merchants; and the imposition of a tax of 10 per cent. on all vessels entering or leaving the river by Toultcha.

In regard to the first of these subjects—and in reply to your Excellency's inquiry as to how far the rumours in question are confirmed by the information received from British Agents—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz reported, under date of the 5th instant, that about 600 cubic yards of stone had been collected by the Russians at Toultcha on the bank of the Danube, which it was intended, as was believed, to use in the event of war in the construction of a new dam.

In regard to the exportation of grain from the Dobrudscha, Her Majesty's Consul confirms the fact of its having been forbidden by the Russians, and he also states that at Toultcha they levy a tax of 20 paras a ton on vessels loading, but he had not been able to ascertain whether it was a new or an old tax.

It is further stated that on the Pruth there are three bridges: one at Sculeni above the navigable part; two near the mouth of the river, one a railway bridge, and one for the passage of troops; but it appeared doubtful whether, owing to the rise in the water, the railway bridge is high enough to allow boats to pass. Arrangements were, however, being made for an opening.

The Consul adds that the last bridge is now opened three times a week, which the Pruth Commission consider satisfactory; and it is explained that the rise of freight is due to the short supply of barges.

I have the honour to state, in conclusion, M. l'Ambassadeur, that as far as the above reports are concerned, Her Majesty's Government do not under present circumstances, and as far as their information goes, see any sufficient reason for special representations or remonstrance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 536.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Thornton.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government are desirous of obtaining a reply to the following query:—Should the point not have been already decided authoritatively, you are hereby authorized to take Counsel's opinion on the matter.

Her Majesty's Government wish to know whether, by United States' law, the United States' Government are empowered to detain a vessel in their ports which they are convinced is either being, or has been, equipped for the purpose of cruizing and of committing hostilities, though no war be in existence, and though it cannot be shown against what Power the vessel in question is intended to act.

I await your reply upon this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 537.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Shellaby.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, asking the renewal of the instructions previously issued by this Department to Her Majesty's Consuls in Syria and Palestine on behalf of the Samaritans of Nablus, and I am to inform you that this communication shall receive attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 538.

Consul Cornthwaite to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord Marquis, *Tagantrog, May 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that troops incessantly arrive at this place in small detachments, consisting principally of recruits of the last levy. After undergoing a

certain course of drill, the greater portion are moved onwards, usually to inland districts, where they are assigned to their respective regiments. Some of the number, however, have been latterly embarked for Kertch.

Within the last week infantry of different corps daily reach Taganrog by train, and are progressively shipped off for some of the Black Sea ports, but any precise information concerning these military movements are not obtainable by me.

The Don Cossack reserve regiments have, I am informed, been called out for active service, destined, it appears, for the Danube or other westward provinces.

Census is being made of the able-bodied male population of these localities between twenty and forty years of age, which measure gave rise to a report that the militia would be enrolled. This, apparently, was mere conjecture, and in any case premature.

In the meanwhile there is more foundation for the 3rd reserves of 1875 being summoned to assemble; and it is evident strenuous efforts will be made in case of certain eventualities to largely augment the disposable military forces of this country.

I learn that instructions have been received by the Direction of the Black Sea Commercial Steamboat Company to send all the steamers and steam-barges of said Company to Odessa.

A list is just opened and subscription earnestly invited for the construction or purchase of cruizers to be employed for the destruction of the mercantile navy of "Russia's great enemy;" similar measures have already been put forward in many of the principal towns of Russia.

The announcement published here is drawn up in an excessively hostile spirit toward England. When relieved of the present severe pressure of Consular business, I shall have the honour to transmit a copy, with translation, for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

No. 539.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 18. Political.)
Ragusa, May 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that three Austro-Hungarian iron-clads, the "Habsburg," "Kaiser," and "Don Juan," have been stationed in the Bocche di Cattaro, where I hear, from the best authority, they are to remain for the present, and their numbers probably increased.

Rumours are being circulated that the Montenegrins are likely to give trouble to the Austrian Government, and that a fleet has been sent to the Bocche to protect Cattaro in the event of an attack.

I know not whether any good reason exists for precautionary measures being taken by the Government, but, from what anyone may observe, great activity is displayed by the military.

General Poppenheim, since his return from Vienna, has been constantly on the move inspecting forts, which are being mounted with mortars and plentifully supplied with shells recently landed at Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 540.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(Not for publication.)

(No. 23.)
Tunis, May 10, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will be pleased to excuse me if I venture to transmit a copy of a private letter which General Hussein has addressed to Sadyk Pasha, President of the Ottoman Council, which letter, as an exposition of Mussulman feeling, is not altogether devoid of interest in the present crisis of Turkish affairs.

General Hussein, Tunisian Minister of Instruction and Public Works, is well known and esteemed at Constantinople for his knowledge, intelligence, and patriotism. He visited last year the capital, where he became very intimate with Sadyk Pasha, with whom, he tells me, he had many serious conversations regarding passing events in Turkey. They both concurred in opinion that the only and safest policy for the Porte to pursue was a strict adherence to Great Britain, as the sole Power which could save the Empire from final dissolution.

The reports circulated since the Peace of San Stefano, regarding the possibility of a Turco-Russian alliance or a declaration of neutrality by the Porte in case of a war between Great Britain and Russia, have induced General Hussein to remind the President of the Council of the duties which Islam, no less than grave political considerations, impose upon all patriotic Mussulmans, namely, to co-operate with their friends and defenders against their common enemy.

It is scarcely necessary to say that this feeling prevails in all Mohammedan countries.

General Hussein having lately returned from Italy, where he is engaged in a lawsuit on behalf of the Tunisian Government, was good enough to furnish me with a copy of his communication to Sadyk Pasha at my request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 540.

General Hussein to the President of Ottoman Council.

(Personnelle.)
Monseigneur, *Rome, le 9 Avril*, 1878.

DEPUIS que votre Altesse a été appelée à la Présidence du Conseil je me suis proposé de vous écrire, pour vous adresser mes félicitations et vous manifester la joie que m'a causée le choix éclairé qu'a fait en votre personne notre auguste Souverain, prouvant par là qu'il sait apprécier le véritable mérite. Je regrette seulement qu'on ait trop tardé de récourir à votre lumière et à votre patriotisme, mais mieux tard que jamais. Au lieu de conjurer les maux de la patrie, votre Altesse aura le mérite d'y remédier.

La paix qui a été conclue entre la Sublime Porte et la Russie ne paraît pas à votre serviteur conciliable avec l'existence et le maintien de l'Empire Ottoman, particulièrement en Europe, à moins de dire que, pour arrêter l'effusion du sang, on a accepté cette paix comme une mesure provisoire, tout en comptant sur l'intervention indispensable des autres Grandes Puissances.

Déjà, en effet, le Gouvernement Anglais a publiquement annoncé qu'il désapprouve ce Traité, auquel il n'y a d'autre remède que la guerre ou une modification radicale de ses conditions.

Votre Altesse n'ignore certainement pas les bruits qui circulent relativement à une alliance Turco-Russe, ou du moins à la neutralité de la Turquie, en cas de guerre entre les Anglais et les Russes.

Quant à l'alliance, je ne pense pas qu'elle puisse jamais venir à l'esprit de tout homme d'Etat Ottoman véritablement attaché à son pays; et il serait absurde de se déclarer l'ennemi d'un ami qui, ne partageant pas sur quelques points nos idées et nos vues, n'est pas venu à notre secours au moment désiré.

Quant à la neutralité, on la comprendrait dans certaines circonstances, mais non dans celles où nous nous trouvons. Car, une fois la guerre allumée de nouveau, nous ne pouvons pas nous croiser les bras et rester étrangers à la lutte.

Si nous consultons à cet égard les principes de la religion, nous trouvons qu'elle nous dit que nous sommes tenus de faire d'abord notre devoir et d'abandonner le reste à la providence. Et même au point de vue de la politique nationale et de la nature humaine, un légitime amour propre nous enseigne qu'il vaut mieux mourir avec honneur que de vivre déshonoré.

Quelques phrénologues ont prétendu, peut-être non sans raison, que tout homme a dans son organisation une affinité avec un animal quelconque. Ce principe une fois admis, si on l'applique aux nations, on peut dire des Anglais qu'ils sont comme la tortue, qui ne peut ressentir les effets d'une blessure que si le coup est assez fort pour percer sa carapace, et il paraît maintenant que la carapace du léopard a fini par être percée.

Et puisque nous sommes sur le chapitre des comparaisons, je prie votre Altesse de me permettre d'en faire une autre.

J'ai lu dans quelques livres d'histoire naturelle, et j'ai eu l'occasion de la constater moi-même que, parmi tous les animaux, l'âne est le seul qui en rencontrant le lion va se jeter dans sa gueule, au lieu de faire comme font tous les autres. Tout Musulman doué de quelque intelligence et animé de sentiments patriotiques se gardera bien, le cas échéant, de régler sa conduite sur celle du moins intelligent des animaux.

Votre Altesse connaît les Russes de loin et de près, et il faut leur rendre cette justice que, s'ils ont jamais montré de la sincérité, c'est dans leur ancienne et persévérante inimitié contre nous.

Ils nous proclament les ennemis de leur foi religeuse, de sorte que nous ne pouvons devenir pour eux des amis qu'en cessant d'être Musulmans.

Or, comme, pour entraîner leurs masses, ils se sont servis du prétexte de la religion, dans le seul but d'agrandir leur domain temporal, nous ne devons pas hésiter à risquer au besoin des avantages temporels pour la défense de notre propre foi. Et c'est le moins que nous puissions faire maintenant. Car, permettez-moi de la dire à votre Altesse, au commencement de la guerre, on n'a pas agi d'une manière efficace sur les différents centres Islamiques. Il ne suffit pas d'afficher des proclamations sur les places publiques, de les insérer dans les journaux et d'envoyer aux Gouverneurs des Firmans qu'ils ne comprennent ou n'exécutent pas; il faut mettre en campagne des hommes capables et énergiques pour remuer et entraîner les masses Islamiques. Il est vrai que ces masses sont en général des maigres troupeaux, grâce à leurs bergers, qui sont bien plus occupés à les tondre qu'à leur procurer de gras pâturages.

On a déjà dit en Europe que les malheurs des Musulmans proviennent de leur aveugle obéissance à leurs chefs. Cela étant, nous n'avons qu'à mettre à profit cette obéissance dans un but utile et patriotique.

Comme premier moyen de salut, je prie votre Altesse de ne pas perdre de vue la Constitution; car, selon moi, c'est la seule digue efficace contre les débordements de l'ambition Moscovite.

J'espère que votre Altesse me pardonnera la liberté que j'ai prise de m'exprimer ainsi. Loin de moi la pensée de lui donner des conseils. Ce que je fais n'est de ma part qu'un acte de foi que je dépose entre les mains de votre Altesse, en la priant de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

(Signé) G. H. DE TUNIS.

No. 541.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 18, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph yesterday to your Lordship to the following effect:—

"None of the non-resident members of the Danube Commission having come to Galatz, the General Meeting has not taken place.

"With respect to the demand of the Porte for advances on account of the debt owing to it by the Commission, the Austrian and Italian Delegates say they have received no instructions, and have consequently no opinion to offer on the subject.

"The German Commissioner has written from Bucharest to the effect that he is against the proposal. The Russian Commissioner reserves his vote. No opinion has been expressed by the French Delegate."

The German Delegate characterised the proposal as inopportune at the present moment, considering the unfavourable state of our finances.

As it rather appeared from the telegrams and correspondence of the absent Commissioners that they were under the impression that the question had been brought forward through English initiative, and as, owing to no General Meeting being held, I had no opportunity of presenting it in the usual form, I addressed on the 16th instant a letter to the German, French, and Russian Delegates respectively, a copy of which is inclosed, detailing the circumstances of the case, and recording my own opinion as to the possibility of acceding to the demand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Colonel Siborne to his German, French, and Russian Colleagues.

Monsieur et cher Collègue, *Galatz, le 16 Mai, 1878.*

COMME la session ordinaire du printemps de la Commission Européenne du Danube n'a pu avoir lieu par suite du nombre insuffisant des Délégués présents je crois devoir vous expliquer par écrit comment s'est élevée la question de la demande de la Turquie pour remboursement anticipé d'une partie de sa créance envers la Commission.

Le 24 Avril dernier je reçus un télégramme de Lord Salisbury m'informant que la Sublime Porte s'était adressé au Gouvernement Britannique pour le prier de demander par l'entremise du Délégué Anglais quel était le montant du crédit de la Turquie dans la caisse de la Commission. Elle voulait en appliquer le solde, après remboursement des dépenses de la réouverture de la navigation, à secourir les fugitifs auxquels elle n'était pas en état de fournir du pain si elle n'obtenait cet argent.

Je répondis par télégraphe le même jour que la somme dûe à la Porte par la Commission du Danube s'élevait à 4,310,965 fr.; que le remboursement n'en était pas obligatoire avant 1883; que la dépense de la réouverture de la navigation était 45,000 fr.; et que nous ne pouvions faire aucun autre paiement à présent.

J'écrivis aussi à Lord Salisbury une lettre en lui exposant plus en détail notre situation financière vis-à-vis de la Porte.

Quand j'étais à Soulina le 3 Mai, je reçus encore une dépêche du Ministre m'informant que le Gouvernement Ottoman demandait avec beaucoup d'anxiété si une partie, au moins, des sommes à lui dûes par la Commission ne pourrait être remboursée, afin de pourvoir aux besoins urgents des fugitifs.

Je répondis que je ne considérais pas possible de faire les avances demandées; que je télégraphierais encore quand je serais de retour à Galatz, et après avoir consulté mes collègues.

Le 6 Mai le Comité Exécutif délibérait sur la question et à la suite de la séance je télégraphiai au Ministre que, d'après mon avis, en considération de l'état de nos finances, il était impossible de faire des avances à la Porte à présent; que mes collègues du Comité Exécutif désiraient, avant d'émettre une opinion, consulter leurs Gouvernements, ou, au moins, soumettre la question à la session plénière convoquée pour le 14 courant.

Ma propre opinion reste toujours la même, à savoir, que dans ce moment il est impossible de faire des avances à la Porte pour les raisons suivantes:—

Par suite de la guerre, la Commission a perdu au moins 1,000,000 fr. Toute notre numéraire actuel est absolument indispensable pour les dépenses courantes, et ne suffirait que pour quelques mois dans le cas où les recettes de la navigation seraient encore une fois interceptées par une nouvelle guerre, et, si la guerre durait quelque temps, il faudrait tôt ou tard avoir recours à la partie placée du fonds de réserve.

Il pourrait même arriver que ce fonds fût épuisé, et qu'il fallût faire appel aux Puissances Garantes pour le remboursement de l'emprunt de Londres, et peut-être même pour les moyens de faire face à d'autres besoins exigeants, tels que les frais d'administration.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) H. T. SIBORNE.

No. 542.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of the 12th instant, to the effect that the Russian Delegate had applied to the Commission for payment to his Government of 500,000 fr. stipulated for in the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, I have the honour to forward herewith copies (1) of Baron Stuart's letter on the subject, and (2) of the reply of the Commission.

From the latter it will be seen that the Executive Committee has simply informed Baron Stuart that we have communicated his application to our Governments and to the members of the Commission absent from Galatz.

As indicated in the above-mentioned telegram, I believe that this demand would

not have been made at the present time had I not been obliged, through the action taken by the Austrian and Italian Delegates, to give notice of presenting to the General Meeting summoned for the 14th instant the request of the Porte for partial repayment of our debt to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure 1 in No. 542.

Baron Stuart to the European Danube Commission.

Messieurs et chers Collègues, *Bucarest, le* $\frac{22 \text{ Avril}}{11 \text{ Mai}}$, 1878.

PAR l'Article XIII du Traité de San Stefano la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à affecter, sur la somme qui lui est due par l'honorable Commission Danubienne, 500,000 francs pour couvrir les dépenses occasionnées par le déblaiement du Canal de Soulina et pour indemnités aux particuliers des dommages qui leur ont été causés du fait de la guerre.

D'ordre du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie je viens vous prier, Messieurs et chers collègues, de vouloir bien prendre les dispositions nécessaires afin que la somme susindiquée soit remise entre mes mains pour être acheminée à mon Gouvernement.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) STUART.

Inclosure 2 in No. 542.

M. de Sommariva to Baron Stuart.

Monsieur et cher Collègue, *Galatz, le* 17 *Mai*, 1878.

LA Commission Européenne du Danube a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que vous avez bien voulu lui adresser en date du $\frac{27 \text{ Avril}}{11 \text{ Mai}}$, 1878, pour lui demander en vertue de l'Article XIII du Traité de San Stefano le versement de 500,000 francs en acompte de la dette de la Commission envers la Sublime Porte.

Les Délégués présents à Galatz ont communiqué à leurs Gouvernements votre office précité, dont copie a été également adressée aux délégués absents.

Veuillez agréer, &c.
Pour la Commission Européenne du Danube,
(Signé) SEYSSEL D'AIX DI SOMMARIVA.

No. 543.

Mr Monson to Sir H Elliot.—(Received at Foreign Office May 23.)

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Buda Pesth, May* 19, 1878.

THE "Pester Lloyd," however much an officious organ of M. Tisza's Government, has consistently taken a very independent and advanced line in the discussion of Count Andrassy's foreign policy; and its leader this morning is couched in language which ought to satisfy even the "United Opposition."

This article asks: "Why it is that the Russian press concerns itself only with the diplomatic conflict with England? Why is there such complete silence over the transactions with Austria-Hungary? It may be expedient to acquiesce in allowing the British Lion to roar in a tone rather louder than 'we' should care to use at St. Petersburgh; but that Russia should treat exclusively with England, or that Austria-Hungary should permit herself to be represented by the latter, appears consonant neither with the dignity nor with the interests of this country.

"It would seem that if, in spite of ugly rumours from Constantinople, Russia should really decide upon an abatement of her pretensions, it would be thanks to England's action, and to that alone. But in that case, what becomes of the prestige of Austria-Hungary in the eyes of her neighbours? To preserve this prestige the country must be ready to show that it will support the rights or Europe by force; but how can this be done when the world is given to understand that Austria leaves her interests to be looked after by England?

"These expressions," continued the article, "are dictated by no feeling of jealousy towards England, to whose Government, on the contrary, Austria-Hungary is indebted for the vindication of principles necessary to the safety of Europe. But 'we' cannot be content with a secondary *rôle*, nor with keeping at a respectful distance behind England."

The articles goes on to point out that it is not only the reduction of the extent of "New Bulgaria" which is an important interest to Austria-Hungary, but the future political and commercial organization of the Balkan Peninsula, and especially the extirpation of Russian domination in, and the cessation of Russian occupation of, the provinces bordering on the Danube. On these heads the "Agence Russe" is silent; but Austria-Hungary cannot afford to be so. The question is, what has Austrian diplomacy been about during the last week? Has it authorized Russia to "include" Austria in any arrangement with England? Has it made England the *mandataire* of Austrian interests? Or has it opened a parallel action with England?

"Two things are become essential—more publicity on the part of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and more energy and completeness in the military preparations. Recent events have thrown considerable ridicule on the Dual system; but it is much to be feared that a continuance of the present policy will reduce even the existence of the Empire *ad absurdum*."

Your Excellency will be struck by the tone of irritation in this article as compared with the complacent language of the semi-official Vienna "Fremdenblatt" over the "success" of Austro-Hungarian diplomacy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 544.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at Foreign Office May 23.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Hamburg, May* 20, 1878.

WHILST in Russia a patriotic Association has been formed with the object of equipping ships to prey on British commerce in case of hostilities, a similar project has been elsewhere entertained from a purely speculative point of view.

In Hamburg the intention exists among certain merchants and others to subscribe funds to fit out cruizers to act principally against our China trade. Shares will be taken in a vessel or vessels, which will sail under Russian colours, and be nominally Russian ships of war, but will be virtually a filibustering expedition against British commerce. I believe the preliminary arrangements have been made, and even certain well-known American captains, intimately acquainted with the Chinese seas, have been asked, if not already engaged, to serve.

During the American civil war a considerable amount of money was made in Hamburg by equipping blockade-runners in this manner. The risk attending the present most unprincipled enterprize is admitted to be great. On the other hand, the profits which would arise from even one capture, are considered to be so large as to warrant the attempt.

I need hardly say that great secrecy is being preserved as to all details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT GRENFELL, *Commander, R.N.*
Naval Attaché.

No. 545.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir Julian Pauncefote.—(Received May 23.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 22, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter received

from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," reporting that he had conveyed Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canea from Suda Bay to Rethymo, to enable him to inquire into atrocities alleged to have been committed at the latter place by the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 545.

Commander Woodward to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"*Bittern*," *at Suda Bay, April* 24, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram to you of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Sandwith, the British Consul here, heard that the Governor-General had received a telegram from the Governor of Rethymo, stating that "sixteen unarmed Mussulmans went outside of Rethymo, beyond the lines separating the Christians from the Turks, to gather wild herbs, and were set upon by a number of insurgents, who, with their knives, cut off the heads, ears, noses, and hands of nine of these Mussulmans."

In consequence of this telegram, the Consul thought it advisable to inquire into the truth or otherwise of this report, and therefore requested me to take him to Rethymo.

On arrival there Mr. Sandwith found, on inquiry from the Governor, and medical man who was called upon to examine the bodies, that the facts were as follows, viz.—nine men were killed, four of these were found with bullet wounds, and their throats cut; the remainder had no appearance of mutilation beyond wounds received in the fight.

I left this anchorage on the above service on the 25th instant, and returned the following day.

During our stay here there have been several small attacks made by the insurgents upon the Turkish outposts within the vicinity of the Bay, but no casualties of importance occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. WOODWARD, *Commander*.

No. 546.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir Julian Pauncefote.—(Received May 23.)

Admiralty, May 22, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the perusal of the Marquis of Salisbury, a despatch from the Naval Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, and a letter from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," reporting the proceedings of Her Majesty's ships in the Gulf of Xeros.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 546.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Alexandra*," *Ismid, May* 7, 1878.

FORWARDED for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, observing that I have informed Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell that so long as there are no torpedoes or torpedo force in the Gulf of Xeros, I do not consider it necessary to keep the large ships with their fires banked; but that every precaution is to be taken to prevent a surprise by causing the small ships to visit the different parts of the Gulf frequently to ascertain if any boats are collecting, and by keeping up a watchful patrol at night by means of steam-boats.

2. The large ships will, however, get underweigh for target practice, and exercise at least once a month.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 546.

Captain Salmon to Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, K.C.B., V.C.

"*Swiftsure*," *at Port Baklar, Gulf of Xeros, April* 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that since the date of my last letter nothing calling for special notice has occurred on this station. Her Majesty's ship under my command has remained at anchor during the whole of the past month.

On the 6th April I was joined by Her Majesty's ship "Raleigh," which ship also remains at anchor in Port Baklar. Dédéagatch was last visited by Her Majesty's ship "Ruby" on 7th April, and Enos by Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" on 8th April. No change is reported from either of those places, and at neither place had any sailors or torpedoes arrived, to the best of the Consul's belief.

At Enos the Russian Commandant expressed a wish that Her Majesty's ships should not communicate with the shore, so that it has not been possible to carry out any survey of that part of the coast or the entrance to the lagoon, as I had hoped.

The villages on the north shore of the Gulf are still occupied by a few Russian soldiers in each, and the village of Kadikoi, at the head of the Gulf, by a weak battalion of infantry, with a battery of field-guns. Such of the soldiers as have been seen appear to be in a wretched state both as to food and clothing.

Her Majesty's ships under my orders are kept ready for immediate service. The fires are always banked in two boilers, the steam pinnances patrol at night, and a part of the watch is always on duty at night to man the small guns.

The health of the ships is good. Excepting the case of Sub-Lieutenant Leeson, which ended fatally, no serious case of fever has occurred, though there are generally two or three cases of ordinary remittent fever in each ship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWELL SALMON, *Captain*.

"*Gallipoli*," *May* 4, 1878.

Forwarded for the information of the Commander-in-chief.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral*.

No. 547.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 500.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 23, 1878, 11·30 A.M.

THE Porte has been burnt, only the Department for Foreign Affairs and that of the Prime Minister, have, it appears, escaped; the fire is said to be intentional.

No. 548.

Consul Annesley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Hamburgh, May* 23, 1878.

ABOUT 500 Russian peasants, including women and children, arrived here last week, and I informed Her Majesty's Naval Attaché last Sunday of it. They sailed yesterday morning in Hamburgh steamer "Wieland" for New York. It is possible that seamen and non-commissioned officers were among them, as very many were young and robust, but it cannot be ascertained. Will try to find out if heavy cases were shipped with them and telegraph as soon as possible.

No. 549.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 637.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of the suggestions made by you to the Porte, that steps should be taken without delay for the removal of Mahommedan fugitives at Bourgas, as reported in your despatch No. 582 of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 550.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 638.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, inclosing a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Merlin, Her Majesty's Consul at Piræus on the state of Thessaly.

In a private letter to Mr. Wyndham, attached to this report (inclosure No. 2 to despatch), Mr. Merlin represents that there are two Ottoman subjects whose removal from Thessaly is most desirable for the pacification of that province, their names being Osman Bey, of Carditza, and Amouch Aga, Head of the Police at Larissa; and I have to instruct your Excellency to make strong representations to the Porte with a view to obtain the removal of the individuals in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 551.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Siborne.

(No. 3.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 8th instant, reporting the circumstances under which you had requested Commander Musgrave to withdraw Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" from the Danube; and I have to inform you that I approve your proceedings in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 552.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sanderson.

(No. 8. Political.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 32, Political, of the 13th instant, reporting the circumstances under which a lighter belonging to the Danube Tug and Lighter Company had been seized by the Russian military authorities, and I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings with a view to procure the release of this lighter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 552 A.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 10.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 39, Political, of the 30th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of your advice to the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," to defer his visit to Antivari; I have further to instruct you, whenever an opportunity may offer, to thank the Montenegrin authorities for the acts of consideration which you report they have shown with regard to the representations made by you respecting certain property belonging to British-protected subjects, which had been captured on board two Dulcigniot vessels; but I think it will be better that this should be done without sending a ship of war especially to the Montenegrin coast at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 552 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Moore.

(No. 1.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Jacob esh Shellaby, petitioning his Lordship to take the Samaritans at Nablus under his protection, and I am to instruct you to make inquiries and report whether this community stand in need of any special protection or assistance.

You will find correspondence on this subject in the archives of your Consulate in the years 1851, 1854, and 1871.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 553.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 171. Political.)
Alexandria, May 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a curious letter, which has been shown to me by Cherif Pasha, alleged to have been addressed by General Ignatieff to the Khédive in May 1871, indicating the line of hostile policy which in the true interests of Egypt His Highness should pursue towards his Suzerain.

This letter is to be produced in Court in proof of a claim brought against the Egyptian Government by a certain Mr. Ninet for expenses alleged to have been incurred by him in engaging officers, &c., for the Egyptian service in view of a probable rupture with the Porte.

The Khedive repudiates the authenticity of this letter and denies that he ever received it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

Inclosure in No. 553.

General Ignatieff to the Khedive.

Monseigneur,
Péra, Constantinople, le $\frac{18}{30}$ Mai, 1871.

JE m'empresse de remercier votre Altesse de la lettre dont elle m'a honoré qu'elle a daigné m'adresser en date Caire le 8 du présent mois.

Je crois de mon devoir de vous informer en même temps que le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Impériale en Egypte m'a rendu compte de l'entretien qu'il a eu l'honneur d'avoir avec votre Altesse.

Je regrette infiniment que votre Altesse ait pu donner aux communications que je lui ai faites, par ma lettre du 15 Avril écoulé, un autre sens que celui que j'avais réellement en vue.

Si votre Altesse veut bien se rappeler ce que je lui disais en plaçant sous ses yeux les informations en question, elle verra que je la félicitais de la tournure favorable que les affaires commencent à prendre en Orient.

Je lui faisait remarquer que l'Europe était tellement fatiguée par la dernière guerre, que l'esprit public était tellement désireux de paix, que la société Européenne mettrait à son ban le premier qui tenterait de la troubler.

Quoi donc de plus avantageux pour votre Altesse si la Turquie, éperonné, harassée de tous les côtés, se jetait follement sur l'Egypte sans cause réellement légitime! Le Gouvernement de votre Altesse n'aurait qu'à se défendre pendant quelques jours en protestant contre l'esprit de conquête Ottoman et ceux là même qui nous accusent d'être les missionnaires de la révolution en Orient ne manqueraît pas d'appeler une intervention devant laquelle la Porte serait obligé de s'arrêter.

En nous rappelant, Monseigneur, ces primordiales considérations, je prends la liberté de vous exposer plus clairement encore la manière de voir du Gouvernement Impérial; pour le succès de nos projets, il est urgent que l'Egypte reste tranquille pour le moment.

Armez-vous, faites toutes les préparations nécessaires pour une longue guerre, combinez des alliances offensives et défensives avec la Grèce, la Serbie, la Roumanie (dans lesquels indubitablement nous vous assisterions), et continuez de disputer pouce à pouce les prétentions de votre Cour Suzeraine.

Que le Gouvernement Egyptien se montre digne et inflexible dans ses relations avec la Porte et il peut être sûr de remporter la victoire.

Plus les Ministres du Sultan vous trouveront ferme et intraitable, plus leur irritation contre vous augmentera et le jour de l'explosion sera proche.

C'est alors que l'Egypte connaîtra et appréciera l'amitié de la Russie bien différente de la protection Française qui, après avoir poussé votre illustre aïeul à la guerre, se changea en appui platonique et abandonna l'Egypte à la vengeance Ottomane.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) IGNATIEW.

No. 554.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 173. Political.)
My Lord,

Alexandria, May 17, 1878.

VICE-ADMIRAL Lord John Hay reported to me on the 12th instant his arrival at Port Said in his flag-ship "Minotaur," accompanied by Her Majesty's ship "Defence;" and Her Majesty's ship "Pallas" left Alexandria on the 14th instant, to join the squadron at Port Said.

The Admiral having consulted me as to the rumours afloat of Russian designs involving possible danger to the Canal, and as to his proper course of action in case of emergency, or on being asked by the Egyptian authorities to render assistance in protecting the Canal from injury, I beg to submit for your Lordship's approval an extract of my despatch to the Admiral upon this subject.

I have just heard that the "Goa," towing the transport "Athole," with the first detachment of Indian troops on board, arrived at Suez yesterday, and entered the Canal "All well."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

Inclosure in No. 554.

Mr. Vivian to Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Alexandria, May 14, 1878.

WITH respect to the rumours and suspicions afloat of Russian designs, the chartering of American vessels, and the shipment of arms through Egypt, I inclose a confidential Memorandum containing all the information which I have received upon the subject.

The strictest watch is being kept at all the principal ports of Egypt upon suspicious arrivals, whether of vessels or persons, and this "surveillance" is maintained, not only by Her Majesty's Consuls, but by the principal English officers in the Khedive's service, his Highness having willingly offered me every possible co-operation.

As regards the special protection of the Suez Canal, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, at my suggestion, the Khedive, as the representative of the territorial Sovereign, has ever since last year placed the Canal under the special charge of Admiral

McKillop, C.B., one of his oldest and most trusted officers, who has organized a special military guard along its banks.

I entirely agree with your Lordship in anticipating little or no danger from any attempt to blow in the banks. The Engineers of the Canal have assured me that any such attempt would defeat itself, the nature of the soil of the Canal not offering sufficient resistance to explosive substances.

In the more possible event of an attempt to sink one or more vessels in the Canal, the powerful drags of the Company could, I am assured, clear away the obstruction in a few hours, and if the guard along the banks of the Canal is carefully kept, the laying down of torpedoes ought to be impossible.

In conclusion, I can only state that both the Egyptian authorities and the Canal Company are as anxious as we are for the preservation of the Canal from injury; that the principal English officers in the Egyptian service have been made aware confidentially of the rumours and suspicions afloat, and have been instructed to take efficient measures to guard against the danger; and I conceive that your Lordship would be perfectly justified in rendering the Egyptian authorities, in case of emergency, and upon their requisition, any assistance they might properly ask for the purpose of the protection of the Canal, and which, in your Lordship's judgment, might appear justifiable and necessary.

No. 555.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 627.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 16, 1878.

THE inclosed Memorandum has been given to me by Mr. Dragoman Marinich. I know nothing more of Hadji Mohammed Rahim Effendi, to whom it refers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 555.

Memorandum.

Hadji Mohammed Rahim Effendi, descendant d'une famille princière de la race de Rombol (Asie Centrale, Monts Ourals) prend la liberté d'exposer à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique ce qui suit.

Qu'il était venu en Turquie il y a quinze ans environ pour faire connaître au Gouvernement Ottoman toutes les vexations auxquelles les populations Musulmanes du Caucase étaient sans cesse en butte de la part des autorités Russes, lesquelles fermaient les mosquées pour empêcher les populations de s'acquitter de leurs devoirs religieux, imposaient l'obligation d'enseigner la langue Russe dans les écoles Musulmanes, refusaient d'admettre les Imams qui ne connaissaient pas la langue Russe et usaient de mille autres moyens pour Russifier les pays soumis à la domination Moscovite.

Hadji Mohammed Rahim s'était présenté à la Porte en qualité de délégué chargé de défendre les intérêts de dix-neuf provinces Musulmanes, soumises au Czar, sans compter les Kirghis, sur lesquels le pétitionnaire croit devoir attirer l'attention du Gouvernement Britannique.

Hadji Mohammed, qui prétend connaître à fond les mœurs et les vues de ces peuples et celles des populations du Boukhara de l'Afghanistan soutient que les Russes travaillent sans cesse à préparer la voie de la conquête des Indes. Au dire du pétitionnaire l'Afghanistan est miné par les intrigues Russes au point de préférer une alliance avec la Russie plutôt qu'avec la Turquie. Il n'y aurait, dit-il, qu'à se reporter à la réception froide que l'Emir a faite à l'Envoyé du Sultan pour comprendre combien l'influence Russe a gagné du terrain dans ce pays. La Russie semblerait vouloir pousser l'Emir à attaquer les Indes en lui promettant de les soumettre à sa domination.

L'Afghanistan craint de se lancer dans cette voie et se contente de cajoler la Russie pour gagner du temps et voir le parti qu'il a à prendre. En attendant la Russie travaille pour conclure une alliance avec la Perse qui lui permette de pénétrer dans le Béloutchistan pour soulever les populations des Indes.

Hadji Mohammed Rahim dit que la Russie entretient dans les contrées soumises

à sa domination très-peu de troupes et manque absolument de moyens de transport; ce serait, à son avis, le moment le plus opportun pour l'Angleterre d'agir en vue de garantir l'avenir des Indes. Les sacrifices que le Gouvernement Britannique serait tenu de faire seraient bien minimes. Il suffira qu'il s'engage à promettre à ces peuples de rétablir leurs principautés (Khanats). Après une telle promesse le pétitionnaire partirait immédiatement pour ces contrées afin d'y soulever leurs populations, les Turkomans et les Kirghis, qui ont assez d'armes et de munitions pour attaquer et se défendre contre les Russes. Avant d'entreprendre son voyage, Hedji Mohammed Rahim obtiendrait trois lettres, une du Sultan, une du Premier Ministre et une autre du Cheik-ul-Islam. Le pétitionnaire se rendrait tout d'abord dans l'Afghanistan et ferait comprendre à l'Emir que ses véritables intérêts l'obligent de marcher d'accord avec l'Angleterre. Pour que le Gouvernement Britannique puisse se rendre compte exactement du degré d'influence dont le pétitionnaire jouit dans ces contrées, il désire de se faire accompagner par deux Musulmans de l'Inde. Les armes puissantes dont Mohammed Rahim se servira dans les pérégrinations politiques lui donnent la ferme conviction que sa mission sera couronnée du plus grand succès.

Pour toute récompense il demande que l'Angleterre lui paye ses frais de route et qu'en cas de mort sa famille reçoive une pension.

(Signé) HUGO MARINITCH.

Péra, le 14 Mai, 1878.

No. 556.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 628.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 17*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Reade (of Rustchuk) transmitting to me one from Vice-Consul Sankey, to whose statements as to the treatment of the inhabitants of the provinces occupied by the Russians, and of their feelings towards their would-be liberators, I would draw your Lordship's particular attention. The same accounts reach Her Majesty's Embassy, as your Lordship is aware, from the most opposite part of Turkey in Europe now in the hands of the invader.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 556.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, May 16*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, a despatch I have received from Vice-Consul Sankey at Kustendji on the Russian occupation of the Dobrudja.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 556.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Kustendji, May 11*, 1878.

THE head-quarters of General Zimmerman's corps are ordered back to Bazardjik, and the General is away on three months' sick leave.

The steam-ship "Grand Duke Constantine" called here yesterday, and after a turn in the harbour steamed off to Odessa. The officers landed and inspected the place.

The Bulgars are still doing all the harm they can to the returned Mussulmans, and have taken to assassination, as within the last month four persons have been found murdered near Mangolin, and as the Bulgars are roaming the country, the murders are attributed to them.

A ride into the country presents a dismal spectacle. After the Russians crossed, according to their own account, they found a smiling and fruitful country, a contented peasantry, and no signs of want. Before their final victory at Plevna they treated the populations courteously and justly, having doubts as to their ultimate success.

Since Plevna all has changed, and they have appeared what, as I suppose, they really are by nature, tyrannical, unjust, regardless of private right and property, and careless of any attempt at gaining the sympathies of the populations.

During nearly thirty years of residence in the Levant, I have been able to remark the gradual dying out of the bad feeling between Turks and Christians, as also between different sects of the latter, when they were living together on good terms and in the same villages. The petty annoyances (for they were nothing more) to which the Christians had to submit were equally felt by the Turkish peasantry, and Turkish rule was mild, if despotic.

A few months have changed all this. The Russians have revived the old feelings of fanaticism and hatred, rendered the country a desert, shown the example of contempt for justice and the rights of property, and unsettled and discontented every race, so that there is but little probability that the Slavs and Turks will ever be able to settle down together in the same districts without a perpetual call arising for foreign interference between them.

The aim of the Russian civil authority seems to be to squeeze out enough money in taxes and fines to defray the enormous salaries granted to officials, and that of the military to destroy as much property as possible. But far beyond the hatred engendered between race and race, is the hatred of the Russian by all the peoples inhabiting Turkey, Bulgars included.

From frequent conversations with Russians, I am often inclined to believe that the hatred of Bulgars always professed by Russians arises from the former's jealousy of the material well-being and flourishing condition of the latter, as compared with the same class in Russia, and that they feel aggrieved at having been called upon to liberate a people who seemed to want for nothing. It is, however, a fact that the subject races in Turkey, including Bulgars, would hail the departure of the Russians as a deliverance and blessing.

The Russians are aware of this feeling, and make no secret of their belief of having fought for nothing, that they have gained no advantage from the wars, and that they will not be allowed to retain any of their conquests. Even the least thoughtful of the Bulgars can see, from the taste they have had of Russian institutions, that their so-called liberation would subject them to far heavier burdens than any they had to bear under Turkish rule, and that they would only be taken from under the mild despotic Government of the Sultan and placed under the reverse of mild rule of the despotic Czars. They now, having of necessity broken with the Turks, hold with the Russians from necessity, and not from choice.

It is plain to me that Russia has lost incalculably more than she has gained by the war, that her influence is more apparent than real, and that it will be very difficult for her in the future to make any of the Turkish Slav peoples believe in Russian benevolence and disinterestedness, and that all Russian statements and professions will be taken for what they really are, "Bosh Lakerdy."

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. F. SANKEY.

No. 557.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 629.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 17*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Reade (of Rustchuk), respecting the number and disposition of the Russian troops in the vilayet of the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 557.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Pera, May* 15, 1878.

IN reply to Mr. Jocelyn's private and confidential communication, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, a return of the number and disposition of the Russian troops at present in the vilayet of the Danube, as obtained by Vice-Consul Dalziel from the Vali at Varna.

Mr. Dalziel states that this is all the Vali knows, but that as he (the Vali) has telegraphed to the outlying points on the subject, directly the answers arrive, he will report the result.

It is stated at Varna that General Zimmerman and his corps are mostly on the Danube, and that it would appear that preparations are being made to repel any naval operations along the river.

Mr. Dalziel has been informed that Iskender Effendi, correspondent of the "Turquie" newspaper, who is at Bazardjik, has lately written to a merchant of Varna, that he had heard on reliable authority that the Russians had sent a new demand to the Vali of the surrender of Varna, and that if they did not get a favourable answer within eight or ten days, they intended to take the place by storm.

Mr. Dalziel further states, that similar rumours respecting Shumla are prevalent at Varna, but he thinks that all these reports are circulated for a purpose, and that Iskender Effendi is made the vehicle for transmitting false news.

Mr. Hanower, the Director-in-Chief of the Varna-Rustchuk Railway, has been called to the latter place to arrange with the Russians for the repairs of the line. They (the Russians) have hitherto declined to pay for these repairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 557.

Return of the Number of Russian Troops in the Vilayet of the Danube.

THE numbers and disposition of the Russian forces at present to the vilayet of the Danube, as given by the Vali to Vice-Consul Dalziel, on the 13th May, 1878.

	Infantry.	Cavalry.
At Widdin	3 battalions.	..
Rustchuk	0 ,,	1 regiment.
[illegible]-Bazar	2 ..	1 ..
Eski-Djumé	2 ..	..
Rasgrad	2 ,,	½ ,,
Bazardjik	8,000 men.	..
Pravadi (en route)	...	2 ..

No. 558.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 630.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 17, 1878.

AN incident which occurred a day or two ago threatened at one moment to add to the complications in the East. The French Ambassador learnt from the French Consul at Jerusalem that the Porte had permitted the Greeks to mend the windows of the church of Bethlehem. So grave a matter could not be passed over by M. Fournier, who threatened to ask for authority to at once demand his passports unless the Turkish Government withdrew the permission, and repaired the window itself. Fortunately the Turks gave way before this menace.

My French colleague, in mentioning the affair to me, observed that it might appear trifling, but the right to mend the windows of a building inferred the right of property in it, and the new French Republic could not afford, in the face of a powerful Ultramontane party and of Rome, to admit the claim of the Greeks to a sacred building of such deep interest to the Catholic world, a claim which had already been resisted by France, even to the extent of war. Neither Latins nor Greeks should

repair the church, which was a duty that the Porte had taken upon itself, and which it was bound to fulfil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 559.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 632.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto respecting the destruction of Turkish villages by the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 560.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 54. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to his Excellency Mr. Layard, suggesting a compromise which might admit of the Mussulman peasantry returning to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 560.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, May* 11, 1878.

I UNDERSTAND by your Excellency's cyphered telegram of the 7th instant that you do me the honour to wish me to suggest some sort of compromise between the Mussulmans and Christians in Crete, as well as the manner in which such a compromise could be brought about.

In my despatch No 51, in which I stated that in the present disposition of the Christians and Mussulmans some compromise between them might be arrived at, I pointed out as a bar to such a compromise the attitude of the Chiefs come over from Greece. In the following despatch I referred to the influences hostile to an arrangement which might be encountered on the part of the Mussulmans in the towns.

It would be presumptuous in me to suggest a compromise between the two hostile parties, because I am not in a position to know what are the views of the Porte in the present unhappy dispute between it and its Cretan subjects, neither can I know how far Her Majesty's Government is prepared to go in undertaking the office of mediator. I conclude that some sort of mediation Her Majesty's Government would be willing to offer, having already done so in the case of Thessaly, but I cannot of course say whether Her Majesty's Government would undertake the responsibility of the engagements which the proposal I have now the honour to make would entail upon it.

I trust, therefore, that in the following rough outline of a plan for bringing about a reconciliation between the two estranged communities in Crete, your Excellency will believe that I put it forward with the utmost reluctance, and that I only profess to know what are the feelings of the Cretans in this matter.

Bearing in mind that the task before me is to devise some expedient for inducing the Mussulman peasantry to return to their homes with the consent of the Christians, I beg to remark that that task involves the previous question of assuring to the latter

an amelioration of their political condition. They are at length convinced that they cannot hope to attain their ends by their own unaided efforts, nor by the secret help of Greece. They would, therefore, I have reason to believe, desire that the shaping of their future lot should be undertaken by the great Powers, which they suppose to be acquainted with their wants. Presuming that as a preliminary step, a cessation of hostilities could be arranged, if it were notified to them that their future political *régime* should be left to the decision of the great Powers (or of Great Britain alone), in concert with the Porte, I am of opinion that, without consenting to give up their arms, they would engage, in the most solemn manner, to respect the lives and property of the Moslems who might venture to return among them. It would require this most solemn assurance on their part to justify an appeal to the Mussulman refugees to return to their homes, which they might be expected to do when they understood that Her Majesty's Government was acting as mediator between them and their Christian countrymen. For my part, I know of no stronger inducement which could be held out to the Christians for keeping the peace than the fact that they had pledged their faith to do so to a Government which they respect so much as that of Great Britain, and I should have no fear for the result. I need not say, however, that it would be necessary that I should exact from the provisional Government and from the more prominent Chiefs a sacred promise that the persons and property of the Mussulmans should be respected. The assurances on this point which I should expect to receive from them I might then impart to the Moslem peasantry, and if the local Government cordially co-operated with me in combatting their scruples, I see no reason why their natural repugnance to trust themselves in the power of the Christians should not be overcome.

The problem which I have been endeavouring to solve is one beset with so many difficulties, that I am quite prepared to learn that it is incapable of solution by peaceful methods. It was the sight of the misery endured by the guiltless and uncomplaining Moslem refugees who crowd this town which made me hopeful that some means might be devised for restoring them to their homes, without the necessity of having recourse to a war which would bring ruin on the entire population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 561.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May 13, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to mention in my despatch No. 53 that Costaki Pasha told me it was the intention of the military authorities to possess themselves of the village of Alikiann and the surrounding country lying to the south-west of this town. Secret agents of the Government have been busy in warning the insurgents of the intended attack, which has had the effect of bringing a large force to the threatened position. When in a few days the insurgents find that the attack does not come off, and the want of provisions compels them to disperse (for they cannot concentrate for any length of time), it is probable that the troops will make an easy conquest of the coveted territory.

Meanwhile, the military cordon between the two hostile sides near Rethymo has been advanced from two to five or six miles from that town. Within this space is included the Christian village Hadji Popolo, which has been completely pillaged by the armed populace of Rethymo, who carried off all the doors and window-frames, and otherwise ruined the place. Costaki Pasha departed hurriedly for Rethymo last night, where his presence may prevent further disorders.

In my despatch No. 49 I mentioned that all the Mussulman prisoners in Rethymo had been released from imprisonment during the visit made to that town by Salih Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief, and that both the Mutessarif and the Vali assured me that it was done by the order of that officer, who, however, laid the blame on the Mutessarif.

The Vali told me that he intended to bring the liberated prisoners to trial, but they have been allowed to remain at large till three days ago, when the ringleader, Arapaki, was suddenly seized by command of the Vali, and the following day (the 11th instant) he was ordered to be put on board the Turkish mail steamer bound for Constantinople. As soon as the Mussulmans of Canea heard of his intended banishment, a crowd of several hundreds gathered before the Governor's konak, and posting guards along the streets leading to the harbour, they threatened to rescue the prisoner from the hands of the police if the Vali's orders were carried out. Costaki Pasha thought it prudent to give way, and from what I have since heard, his Excellency acted wisely, as he could not have counted on the support of the military authorities, for though Salih Pasha denied having released Arapaki and his fellows from prison, he continues to enjoy all the popularity attaching to that act.

During the past ten days the blockade-runner "Panhellenion" has landed a cargo of arms on the west coast of Kissamos, and the "Hydra," another cargo on the east of Candia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 562.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 546.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a leading article from the "Agence Russe" of yesterday on the present relative positions of England and Russia in regard to the Eastern question.

This article, evidently emanating from an official source, and written in a conciliatory and pacific spirit, seeks to prove that both countries may do each other incalculable injury by entering on a struggle for preponderance of power, while, on the other hand, immense advantages, both of a moral and material nature, would result not only to themselves, but to the world at large, if their united forces were employed on the wide sphere of their common action for their mutual interests and for those of Europe and of humanity.

This article is evidently intended to calm the public mind and to prepare it for the desired pacific result of Count Schouvaloff's mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 562.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of May 17, 1878.

St. Pétersbourg, Jeudi soir, 5/17 Mai, 1878.

La Situation.—Si, envisageant la situation d'un point de vue élevé, impartial et, pour ainsi dire, impersonnel, on la juge d'après la réalité des faits et ce qu'on peut appeler la force des choses, elle se résume ainsi :—

L'Angleterre, qui par suite des événements Européens et sous l'impulsion d'une politique peut-être trop terre-à-terre ayant fait de la non-intervention sa règle absolue, s'était presqu'entièrement désintéressée des grandes questions internationales, a éprouvé le besoin, sous une administration Tory, de prouver au monde qu'elle était encore la grande Angleterre des Canning et des Castlereigh et que sa richesse, sa marine, et ses moyens d'action étaient encore de nature à soutenir sa renommée passée et son ancienne puissance. Les préparatifs militaires qu'elle a soudainement amassés sur tout son continent, dans toutes les mers et dans ses lointaines et grandes colonies, l'a suffisamment prouvé pour que personne ne puisse plus en douter.

La Russie, de son côté, à peine sortie d'une guerre héroïque et coûteuse et bien que n'ayant pas les mêmes richesses pécuniaires que l'Angleterre, mais possédant, par contre, cette force incomparable de 85,000,000 d'êtres ralliés autour d'un seul drapeau, ayant avec son souverain le même pouls, le même cœur, a prouvé qu'elle était prête à affronter facilement une nouvelle guerre, à renouveler la grandiose épopée de ses sacrifices nationaux, de ses grands actes historiques pour la défense, le triomphe de son honneur, de sa dignité, de ses croyances les plus chères, prête aussi à porter des coups terribles au commerce Anglais sur toutes les mers.

Cet double démonstration s'est faite tout ce dernier temps à ciel ouvert. Leurs plus insignifiants détails ont servi de pâture à l'échange des nombreuses nouvelles

télégraphiques qui ont rempli depuis des mois les colonnes des journeaux des deux hémisphères.

Il fallait désespérer de la sagesse humaine ou penser qu'après ce réciproque étalage de puissance, de force et de moyens coercitifs sans exemple, les Gouvernements en disposant, responsables cependant devant Dieu, la postérité et leurs pays, de leur emploi légitime et forcé, arriveraient, avant d'y recourir, à se demander si le mal que chacun d'eux ferait à l'autre serait récompensé par le bien que ce mal ferait à lui-même; en d'autres mots, si, la conscience même des puissants moyens d'action possédés par l'un et l'autre pour se nuire en Orient, en Europe, en Asie, ne leur faisait pas un devoir absolu, supérieur, de voir au préalable et de peser consciencieusement les moyens qu'ils pourraient également posséder pour s'aider dans ces mêmes trois parties du monde à leur avantage réciproque et dans l'intérêt général de la paix, de l'ordre, de la conservation, et de la prospérité universelle.

Réduite à cette question décisive et suprême de poids et de mesure, de fins et de résultats, de conscience, de devoirs et de responsabilités, à laquelle peut et doit seul présider le calme et silencieuse appréciation des choses par ceux qui ont plus à répondre devant Dieu et les hommes de leurs actes qu'à se laisser guider par les passions et les irritations du moment, la déduction, ce nous semble, ne saurait être douteuse.

Certes, l'Angleterre peut faire beaucoup de mal à la Russie. Assurément aussi la Russie peut immensément nuire à l'Angleterre, que son état florissant et son extrême développement matériel rendent plus impropre que toute autre à supporter les fléaux de la guerre.

L'œil investigateur peut même définir d'avance les coups redoutables que ces deux gigantesques Puissances sont à même de se porter réciproquement pendant une longue, très longue série d'années, sans jamais découvrir toutefois le point où elles pouvent mutuellement se réduire à merci. Mais si la raison calme et impartiale discerne facilement les intérêts étrangers que cet affaiblissement réciproque des deux principaux facteurs Européens peut servir, elle cherche et recherche en vain les avantages précis, matériels pouvant en résulter pour l'un ou l'autre d'entre eux. Tandis que rien n'est plus facile pour tous et chacun que de constater, de dénommer même les immenses avantages personnels et les bienfaits universels, d'ordre matériel, aussi bien que d'ordre moral, pouvant et devant résulter de ces immenses forces mises en évidence par la Russie et l'Angleterre et employées, non plus à se nuire, mais à s'entr'aider réciproquement sur tout l'immense domaine de leur commune action pour leurs intérêts mutuels et pour ceux de l'Europe et de l'humanité.

Nous nous sommes bornés à examiner ici la question au point de vue élevé et philanthropique de la force des choses. Nous nous bornerons à former le vœu qu'elle parvienne également à pénétrer les esprits et les cœurs.

No. 563.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Warsaw, May* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that money is being openly collected in Warsaw explicitly for the purchase and arming of cruizers.

In the "Zapadnia Potshta" ("Western Post") a notice appeared that money would be received for that purpose.

At the "Russian Club," a dramatic performance took place, during last week, the proceeds of which were devoted to that purpose.

I subjoin a translation of the heading of the play bill for to-morrow, which is to be held at the Russian Club.

"1878.—By permission of the Authorities.

"In the Russian Club.

"*Thursday*, $\frac{17}{29}$th *May*, 1878.

"An Amateur Performance. The proceeds to be devoted to the funds for the purchase of cruizers.

"1. The 'Inconsolable Widow.'

"2. The 'Peasant Girl,' and the 'Fine Lady.'

"3. 'Grandmother's Troubles.'

"By permission of the Grand Master of Police."

I inclose the original playbill.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 564.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Warsaw, May* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I have heard, from a trustworthy source, that orders were yesterday received by the Directors of the Warsaw-Vienna Railway to hold 300 carriages constantly in readiness for daily service at a moment's notice.

A notice of the probability of such an order being issued was received by the Directors from the Russian Government some three months ago.

I have also been informed that General Czernitski, of the Russian Engineers, has, within the last few days, been entrusted with the execution of a plan for the further protection of Warsaw, by the construction of a series of detached forts on the right or eastern bank of the Vistula; the same to be in connection with the existing citadel, which, as your Lordship is aware, is on the left bank of the Vistula.

The garrison of the citadel is to be at once brought up to its full complement of 14,000 men.

The garrisons of the detached forts are estimated to amount altogether to 24,000 men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 565.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 309.)

My Lord, *Rome, May* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 14th instant a Bill was presented to the Chamber of Deputies by the Ministers of War and Finance for authorizing the advance of 10,000,000 lire to be taken from the sale of national property for extraordinary expenses connected with the army.

In the Ministerial Report preceding the Bill, the necessity of the above expenditure and its distribution is explained to the following effect:—

For the maintenance for the year 1878 of 3,000 horses which cannot be placed on the ordinary budget because in excess of the established regulation, and because it would not be advisable under present circumstances to make reforms on a large scale, the sum of 1,500,000 lire.

For carrying on the most urgent works now in course of construction for the defence of the State, 4,000,000 lire.

For changing the quality of the present ammunition of the 7-centimetre cannon so as to place it on an equality with that of other Powers, and which would give it five times its present strength, the sum of 2,400,000 lire will be eventually required, but as all the expense cannot be incurred in one year, the sum now asked for is 1,200,000 lire.

For completing the ammunition and other artillery material for the armament of existing fortifications, a total amount of 30,000,000 lire will have to be spent by degrees, but for doing that which is most urgent a sum of 1,800,000 lire is asked for the year 1878.

At the proper time the Ministry will present a Bill for the organization of military buildings, but as amongst the expenses contemplated in that Bill, there are some destined to facilitate mobilization, and these being the most necessary, it is desirable to be able to execute them now, and for that purpose 1,000,000 lire is indispensable.

For the manufacture of revolvers for the cavalry, 300,000 lire.
For engineer material for the fortresses, 200,000 lire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 566.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from the "Riforma" newspaper, accompanied by a précis, relative to the recent declaration of M. Tisza in the Hungarian Diet when explaining the policy of the Austro-Hungarian Diet in connection with the demand for a credit of 60,000,000 florins.

I think it right to draw your Lordship's attention to this article, because I believe it represents correctly the views of a political party of which some of the leading members of the present Italian Cabinet are the representatives; and because, moreover, language very much to the same effect has been held to me by Deputies belonging to the same party in the Italian Parliament with whom I have conversed on the subject.

Disregarding the assurance given by the Hungarian Minister that it has never been the intention of the Imperial Cabinet to seek compensation in the west for what might have taken place to the east of the Balkans, the article in the "Riforma" seizes on the announcement that the credit will be used for taking necessary military measures on the southern, south-eastern, and northern frontiers, and proceeds to the conclusion that it is the intention of the Austrian Government to occupy "not only Bosnia and Herzegovina, but all the Turkish territory between Hungary and the Adriatic to the Gulf of Avlona and Salonica, and of the eastern frontier of Servia up to the Gulf of Orfano, with the view to the annexation of part of this immense territory, and to exercise over the rest an authority such as Austria possessed over the smaller German States previous to 1866."

The article is written for the purpose of arousing in the public mind in Italy a feeling of apprehension that the interests of the country are in danger from Austria, and also evidently in order to pave the way for a claim to compensation being put forward by the Italian Government.

The compensation which would be sought would be the districts of the Trentino, and from information on which I can place the utmost reliance, I am enabled to state that the question is being seriously entertained by the party now in power whether, in the event of a Congress meeting, it would not be a favourable moment for Italy to bring forward a claim to this territory.

I do not believe, however, that Count Corti would ever agree to raise such a claim, but his resistance to it might possibly involve his having to leave the Ministry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 566.

Précis of Article from "Riforma," of May 17, 1878.

ITALY AND THE DECLARATIONS OF TISZA.—THE importance of M. Tisza's declarations to the Hungarian Chamber will escape no one, and in Italy these utterances have been listened to with especial attention, because, in the first place, Austria declares herself ready to act in the East; and, secondly, because the action cannot be fulfilled without closely affecting Italian interests.

M. Tisza and the Hungarian Chamber must not be at all surprized if Italy carefully watches the progress of these proposed measures, which comprise a zone of territory partly opposite to and partly dominating the soil of Italy.

The Austro-Hungarian plan is vast, and so bold that he can hardly believe its conception to have been possible without the support or, at all events, the assent of another Great Power, which probably may be Germany.

The eventual occupation of Bosnia, which was a fact of much importance for us, is now only a part and not the greatest part of this plan which is now revealed to us.

The increase of troops to which M. Tisza alludes means the formation of military

camps over an immense extension of territory, which, comprising the south, south-eastern, and northern frontiers of the monarchy, extends from the Alps and Adriatic almost to the Black Sea.

This speech has also been commented on and explained by an officious correspondence sent from Vienna to the "Nord Deutsche Zeitung." According to this correspondence the interests of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy require the formation of corps d'armée in Transylvania, Gallicia, to the south of Dalmatia, and in the Barat; besides this the occupation of Bosnia, of Herzegovina, of all Turkish territory between Hungary and Adriatic, of the Gulf of Avlona up to the Gulf of Salonica, and of the eastern frontier of Servia up to the Gulf of Orfano.

And with what object? with a view to annex part of this immense territory, and to exercise over the rest an authority such as Austria possessed over the smaller German States previous to 1866.

In fact, Austria aims at the realization of the Danube Confederation to which Vienna would be such as Berlin now is to the German Empire.

Now is it to the interest of Italy that the Eastern Confederation should be directed by Austria? The Adriatic would become an Austrian lake. Italy would stand defenceless before fleets coming from Istria or Dalmatia or Albania. Is it natural or prudent that we should allow the Eastern question to be settled to the sole benefit of Austria.

Neither annexation nor occupation are distinctly announced by M. Tisza, but in these cases words are pronounced after the accomplishment of the fact. We feel sure that the late Ministry would not have looked on with indifference at the change in the situation. Nor do we pretend to dictate to the present Ministry. But we feel sure of rightly interpreting the national opinion when we exhort the Government not to remain indifferent to the action of Austria if they really appreciate the interests of Italy.

No. 567.

Colonel Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Chatham, May 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch of the 21st instant, inclosing copy of a despatch (No. 21) from Colonel Siborne, dated the 7th instant.

I quite concur with Colonel Siborne in thinking that it is impossible for the Danube Commission to make any repayment of their debt to the Porte before the stipulated term for so doing.

I beg again to call attention to a point which Colonel Siborne still overlooks, that their repayment should be made from revenue, and not from the reserve fund.

I am not aware whether it was your Lordship's intention that the matter should be brought before the other Commissioners; if the payment could have been made that course would have been necessary; but, as it was impossible to recommend compliance with the Porte's request, it seems to me unfortunate that this request has been made the subject of discussion at a general meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STOKES.

No. 568.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 24.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, May 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 21st instant, stating that a telegram was sent to Admiral Hornby on the 20th instant, directing him to act upon the instructions sent to him on the 21st February, viz., "to take no part by force to prevent Russians from entering Constantinople," I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that this telegram has been received and duly acknowledged by Admiral Hornby, as will be seen by the accompanying copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 568.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Ismid, May* 22, 1878, 7 P.M.

YOUR telegram of the 21st received. First part of your telegram of 20th received as follows in cypher:—

"In reference to your telegram No. 100, last paragraph, act upon instructions sent on 21st and confirmed on 23rd February."

No. 569.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 502.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 24, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Blunt, dated the 23rd instant:—

"Said Pasha arrived this morning. At my suggestion, he will remain here until 26th instant, to take measures against brigandage in mountains of Olympus and Pelion. We then go together to Larissa. Greek insurgents at Larissa have been released, and most of insurgents in mountains of Olympus and Ossa and Pelion have gone to Greece in Greek sailing vessels.

[illegible] and large bands of Albanian bandits are doing much mischief in Macedonia, and, as civil authorities seem very negligent and lukewarm, Asaph Pacha (?) Military Commander of forces there, should be specially charged with pacification of that province. He is highly spoken of, and he has plenty of troops for that purpose.

No. 570.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 24, 1878.

CONSIDERABLE activity continues to prevail in every direction in the Russian army, excursions of infantry and cavalry and regiments of Cossacks are constantly moving in different directions, principally, however, to Bulgaria. Sulina is being fortified, and Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz confirms again the report of a very strong bar being prepared for the mouth of the river. There are indications of Rustchuk being strengthened and armed with heavy guns; if Russia could obtain possession of forts still in Turkish hands she would be prepared to defend the Quadrilateral.

In Wallachia Russia appears to prepare a line of defence from Galatz to Ploesti, keeping in sight possibility of Austrian action, and surveying strategical positions commanding mountain passes on the Austrian route, and a short line of rail which might be desirable and could be completed in six weeks.

On the other hand this Government resists hitherto all suggestions recommending disarmament, and has called 18,000 recruits under arms; the positions its troops have taken is one of armed neutrality which will compel Russia, in case of war, to keep a force it can ill afford as a corps of observation, or to attempt a forcible disarmament at the risk of alarming Austria.

Prince Charles keeps away from Bucharest inspecting his army, pending uncertainty of situation; his Ministers continue to make the unofficial overtures for English assistance in the shape of arms, &c., to which I naturally can give no encouragement or reply.

No. 571.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1878.

MAKE every endeavour in your power to obtain accurate information as to the destination of the ships of war which have recently left Cronstadt.

No. 572.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 223.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1878.

IN the course of a conversation which I had on the 20th instant with the Italian Ambassador, his Excellency inquired whether Her Majesty's Government entertained the project which had been attributed to them of bringing about the union of Albania to Greece; adding that if such were the case, he wished to draw my attention to the injurious effect such a measure would have on the position of Italy in the Adriatic; and his Excellency hinted that in such an event Italy would require compensation.

I informed General Menabrea in reply that Her Majesty's Government knew nothing of such a proposition, and had put forward no idea of the kind themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 573.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. John Pender.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1878.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported by telegraph, under date of 21st instant, that he has every reason to hope that the concession granted by the Porte to the Eastern Telegraph Company will be settled satisfactorily shortly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 574.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you copies of a despatch and its inclosure from the British Commissioner on the Danube, reporting the circumstances under which he had requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" to withdraw his vessel from the river; and I am to request you, in laying these papers before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to inform their Lordships that Lord Salisbury has approved Colonel Siborne's proceedings in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 575.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 9, 1878.

I AM informed that the Greek Government has lately purchased a large steamer to serve as a transport. She is to be named the "Themistocles," and is at present lying in the Piræus.

I am also informed that twenty-five 12-ton Armstrong guns have lately arrived at the Piræus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 576.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 303. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Sabouroff, the Russian Minister at this Court, went to Constantinople on the 17th ultimo, and returned to Athens about a week ago. I have had no conversation with him since his return, but the Turkish Minister has seen him, and read to me to-day a despatch he is addressing to his Government as to the language M. de Sabouroff had held to him, which was to the following effect: that he looked upon war between England and Russia as inevitable, and that he had learnt from authorized sources that a secret Treaty of Alliance existed between England and Turkey, and that in his opinion such being the case, the Greeks had little to hope from England towards the realization of their aspirations for territorial aggrandizement.

Photiades Bey concluded his despatch by remarking that he presumed M. de Sabouroff was holding this language with a view of shewing the Greeks the fruitlessness of following the advice of England, but he added that he had not yet seen that M. de Sabouroff's language had had any effect upon the Greek nation, the bulk of whom were still bent upon following that advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 577.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 306.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 287 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, relative to their arrival there from Syra and Athens, of Prince Oldenburg and some Russian engineer officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Consul T. Reade to Mr. Wyndham.

Smyrna, May 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Excellency, on the 4th instant and yesterday, two telegrams in cypher reporting, in accordance with a request to that effect from Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, the movements of five persons who had arrived here by a French steamer from that place. These persons, I said, arrived here without passports on the 2nd instant, and left for Constantinople two days later. One of them gave his name at the Passport Office as Comt Berg, but I subsequently heard that the Prince of Oldenburg was the head of the party, that his Highness was accompanied by two Russian engineer officers, and exchanged visits with the German Admiral and Consul; that he seemed to take special interest in the harbour works and railways of Smyrna, obtaining all the information he could from offices in connexion with these undertakings; and that during his stay here he telegraphed messages to the Russian Ambassadors in London and at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 578.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 276 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that a Greek Deputy with whom I am acquainted asked me a few days ago if I would receive from the President of the Cretan Assembly, who is now in Athens, a petition to Mr. Layard on behalf of a Cretan said to be in gaol at Constantinople for a political offence.

I declined to receive a petition direct from the President of the Cretan Assembly on the ground that such a petition should not be forwarded through me, but I said that if the President would write to him (the Greek Deputy) on the subject, and if he would then communicate his letter to me, I would send it privately to Mr. Layard. He said he would suggest this, but I have heard nothing more of the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 579.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 15, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 15, marked Commercial, of the 6th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Athens of Colonel Alzion, charged by Prince Charles of Roumania to remit to His Majesty the King the Grand Cross of the Star of Roumania, and decorations to two of the Greek Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, consequent, it was said, upon the signature of a Treaty of Commerce between Greece and Roumania. The King received Colonel Alzion yesterday.

Rumours have been afloat that Colonel Alzion was charged to negotiate an alliance with Greece, but I learn to-day, from an authorized source, that nothing had passed between that officer, the King, or his Ministers but an exchange of friendly and complimentary expressions, and that Colonel Alzion is to leave Athens the day after to-morrow without having another interview with His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 580.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 315.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have learnt from M. Delyanni and from an authorized, as well as from a private source, which is likely to be well informed, that there are no Greek insurrectionary agents in Crete. It is said that the insurrection there is purely Cretan, but that arms and supplies are furnished by the Cretan Committee in Athens.

I have communicated the above information to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 581.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 310. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, repeating to me a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, dated the 13th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I learnt yesterday from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and from an authorized source, that no insurrectionary agents of Greek nationality are known to be in Crete. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said the only Greek agents there to his knowledge were the Greek Consular officers. I saw M. Calligas to-day, who was the head of the Thessalian insurrectionary Committee in Athens, and he told me he did not believe there were any Greek agents in Crete, and that, in fact, the Cretans would be jealous of them. He said that if some assurances could be given to the Cretans as to their future fate, he thought the insurrection might cease, but that the Christians there would not be so easily satisfied as were the Thessalians, as in Crete they are far more masters of the situation.

There is a Committee of Cretans in Athens who send supplies of arms, ammunition and food to Crete, from which island the "Panhellenion" Greek steamer is reported to have lately returned from an unsuccessful trip.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 582.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 595. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 9, 1878.*

MY French colleague has been good enough to show me, confidentially, a despatch from the French Vice-Consul at Toultcha. The information it contains may have some interest for your Lordship. M. Langlais describes the Dobrudja, in consequence of its mixed population of different races, as likely to become the centre of political agitation.

Already the Russo-Bulgarian administration is openly criticised and condemned. The officials are accused of being incompetent and intolerant as regards all those who are not Slavs. It is not forgotten that the Bulgarians have destroyed, pillaged, and burnt a large number of Turkish, Tartar, and Circassian villages in the Dobrudja. Complaints are made against the conduct of the local police and their violence, against the heavy burden of the military billet, and against the high salaries of employés paid out of the revenues of the province.

Although there may be some exaggeration in these complaints, the French Vice-Consul observes, it is true that the Bulgarians are disposed to exclude from public employment all who are not of their own race, and to impose upon their neighbours' shoulders the greater part of the public burdens. It is also true that by destroying the Mussulman villages, they believed that they could prevent the return of their inhabitants, and that they looked upon the destruction of Mussulman property as fair retaliation upon the Turks; but the Moldavians have done the same. On the other hand, the Russians have sought to punish the robbers and incendiaries, but unfortunately without much success.

There is no doubt, M. Langlais says, that the police have frequently behaved with a military roughness, to which the people were not accustomed in the time of the Turks, and that they frequently abuse the right of inflicting fines; but at the same time public order is better assured, and there is more security than formerly. The salaries of public functionaries, especially those of the upper class, are undoubtedly very high, and weigh heavily on the budget of the province; but the taxes have not been increased considerably, although they are more rigorously exacted than they used to be.

M. Langlais remarks that Russia, during twenty years, was inciting the Christian populations of the Dobrudja against the Turkish Government and the authorities. She now finds herself the object of similar proceedings on the part of her adversaries.

Her principal enemies are the Wallachians and the Greeks, whose religious and political hatred against the Russians and Bulgarians has of late greatly increased. M. Langlais accuses English agents of playing the part formerly played by Russian agents, and of fomenting this hatred of Russia, an accusation, as far as I know, entirely without foundation, as I am not aware that there are any Englishmen now in the province.

During the last month, he says, a good many Mussulmans have returned who will add to the agitation which is silently increasing in the country. He suspects that this agitation is not altogether unconnected with the movement and risings now taking place in other parts of Turkey in Europe. He states that he has learnt from a good source that whilst a Bulgarian deputation was presenting to the Grand Duke Nicholas at San Stefano an address thanking him for what he had done for the Bulgarians, another deputation of the same people was being sent to the English Ambassador to place before him the grievances of the population, and their complaints against the new *régime*. I have neither seen nor heard of any such deputation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 583.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 597.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a petition addressed to me by the representatives of the Mussulman inhabitants of the Turkish provinces in Europe invaded by Russia, requesting that they may be permitted to go back to their homes without delay, and that their return may take place under the superintendence of the Consuls of foreign Powers.

A similar petition has been presented to some of my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 583.

Petition addressed to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 1 Mai, 1878.*

NOUS soussignés, représentants mandataires et parlant au nom de la population Musulmane de la Turquie d'Europe actuellement envahie par la Russie, exposons ce qui suit:—

1. Comment par la manière inusitée de faire la guerre de la Russie nous avons été chassés de nos foyers est suffisamment connu.

2. Après la paix ceux d'entre nous qui, sur des promesses fallacieuses de Commandant Russe, sont rentrés chez eux, ont été maltraités, massacrés et outragés, est également connu et suffisamment attesté par les rassemblements dans les Balcans inaccessibles à la lâcheté.

3. Or le temps des récoltes s'approche et si nous sommes absents de nos champs, non seulement les récoltes de cette année seront perdues mais encore celle de l'année prochaine, faute de pouvoir donner les soins préparatifs à l'ensémencement des champs.

4. Les pertes que s'ensuivront pour nous et en même temps pour l'économie générale de l'Empire sont faciles à calculer sur les registres des dîmes que nous payons au Gouvernement en multipliant par deux fois dix le chiffre des dîmes.

Dans ces conditions nous nous adressons aux Puissances de l'Europe pour obtenir par ses bons offices:—

1. Qu'il nous soit permis de rentrer dans nos foyers sans autre délai.

2. Que vu le peu de confiance que nous pouvons accorder aux promesses et aux permissions qu'on nous a faite jusqu'ici notre rapatriement se fasse sous la surveillance et avec le concour des Consuls des Puissances Européennes.

On nous a tant parlé d'humanité et des sentiments de justice dont le cœur des Européens est rempli que nous attendons anxieusement le moment de pouvoir abandonner ces sentiments noirs dont le désespoir et notre humanité outragée nous remplit le cœur.

Nous vous prions, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien communiquer notre humble supplique à votre Gouvernement dans le plus bref délai.

De votre, &c.

(Signé) HUSSNI, *d'Andrinople, Délégué du même Vilayet.*
NOURI, *de Philippopoli, Délégué du même Vilayet.*
SAID, *de Chyrpan, Délégué de Chyrpan.*
ARIF, *de Slimnie, Délégué de Slimnie.*
MAHMOUD, *de Teirtza, Délégué de Teirtza.*
FEIZI, *de Sofia, Délégué de Sofia.*
MAHMOUD, *Délégué du Vilayet de Kossova.*
HALIM, *de Tirnova, Délégué de Tirnova.*
NOURI, *de Plevna, Délégué du Vilayet du Danube.*
ENIM, *de Samakow, Délégué de Sofia.*
RIZA, *de Samakow, Délégué de Samakow.*
OMER CHEVKI, *Délégué du même Vilayet.*

No. 584.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 25.*)

(No. 598. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a report addressed to a high Turkish functionary which has been given to me confidentially. It relates to a visit alleged to have been made by Russian spies to Admiral Hornby's squadron at Ismid. I believe that the persons mentioned in the report did visit some of Her Majesty's ships.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 584.

Report.

(Traduction.)

UN officier d'Etat Major Russe, habillé en civil et se disant correspondant d'un journal Belge, a pu voir de près les cuirassés Anglais qui sont mouillés dans le Golfe d'Ismit et se rendre compte de la longueur de chacun, du calibre des projectiles que leurs canons peuvent lancer et de l'endroit où leur sainte-barbe respective est placée. Il a pu en même temps prendre note de leurs noms et le dessin des canons du gros calibre qu'ils ont à bord. Du retour à San Stefano il en soumit un rapport au chef d'état major. Ce rapport fut étudié et on calcula la vitesse de chaque bateau et l'effet des projectiles sur le point de mire. Ils constatèrent ainsi que si le point de mire est un endroit rocheux, la résistance serait impossible. Là-dessus ordre fut donné pour l'envoi d'un second officier à la flotte Anglaise. Le but en était de vérifier l'exactitude des dessins pris par le premier officier. Le second officier se présenta également en qualité de correspondant de journal, mais, comme pendant l'examen qu'il faisait il sortait très souvent de sa poche des dessins avec lesquels il faisait des comparaisons il sentit qu'on s'en apercevrait et il lâcha pied immédiatement. On fit le calcul que les bateaux Anglais mettraient cinq heures pour arriver au Détroit de la Mer Noire et qu'il faut un espace de temps égal aux troupes Russes de San Stefano pour arriver sur les hauteurs du susdit Détroit, mais que s'il y a opposition de la part des troupes Turques, les vaisseaux Anglais passeraient les Détroits avant que les Russes n'arrivent. On considéra, en outre, que par suite de l'état rocailleux des hauteurs environnantes, l'effet des projectiles serait funeste à la marche des troupes. J'ai eu ces détails dans le courant d'une conversation sur la politique de l'Angleterre que j'ai eu avec le Général commandant Stein, qui a pleine confiance en moi. Il en a dit, en outre, que le

Gouvernement Turc fait, de nouveau, des préparatifs de guerre, et que tous les jours des milliers de conscrits arrivent à la capitale. Je lui ai répondu que chez nous le tirage pour la conscription a lieu au mois de Mars et que lorsqu'il aura fini, on congédiera par Iradé Impériale, tous les soldats de réserve et de l'armée territoriale, et que cela ne saurait être pris comme un préparatif de guerre. Il n'y a pas longtemps, ai-je ajouté, que nous avons signé la paix. Si notre intention était de continuer la guerre, nous serions restés à défendre les fortifications de Tchataldja. En cas qu'une guerre viendrait à éclater, la Turquie serait neutre, mais il est de règle pour un Etat neutre d'avoir quelques troupes sous les armes pour sa propre défense. Nous ne permettrons ni à vous ni à l'Angleterre de venir à Constantinople et nous n'accorderons notre appui ni aux uns ni aux autres. Tel est le langage par lequel je l'ai persuadé et rassuré et dont j'ai l'honneur de faire part à votre Excellence.

Le [illegible], 1878.

No. 585.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 25.*)

(No. 600. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 10, 1878.*

I RECEIVED a visit yesterday from Shakir Pasha, the son of Sefer Bey, the well-known Circassian Chief who lived many years in Turkey as the representative of his country upon its cession to Russia, and whom the Porte under Russian pressure exiled to Adrianople. Shakir Pasha, who is in the Turkish military service, has great influence over the Circassians. His object in calling upon me, he said, was to inform me that, in the event of a war between England and Russia, they were ready to enroll themselves under the British flag, and that Her Majesty's Government might, at any moment, raise a considerable force from them. I thanked the Pasha for his communication, but I held out no encouragement to him to hope that Her Majesty's Government would, under any circumstances, avail themselves of the services of his countrymen.

I had an interesting conversation with the Pasha about the Circassians in Turkey. I pointed out to him the bad reputation that they had earned for themselves by their lawless habits, and by the excesses that they had committed during the war. I asked him whether they had borne the same character when in their own country before they were driven from it by the Russians, and, if not, why they had changed in this respect since their migration to Turkey.

Shakir Pasha replied that the Circassians, when in their own country, had acknowledged the authority and were under the control of their tribal Chiefs, who were able to maintain order and to enforce obedience. Such being the case, misdeeds such as they had committed since their expulsion were prevented and repressed. After they came to Turkey they were placed under the Turkish authorities like the rest of the inhabitants of the Empire, and the Chiefs, not being recognized by the Porte and being no longer able to exercise any jurisdiction over them, they were under no restraint and fell into bad habits, especially into that of robbing their neighbours' cattle—a practice prevalent among mountain tribes. The Turkish officials and police were frequently too indifferent or too weak to check or prevent them. He thought that the best way of putting an end to this state of things for the future was for the Turkish Government to give more authority to the Chiefs, and to make them responsible for the conduct of those who belonged to their respective tribes. If this were done, and the Porte maintained a proper police in the districts in which the Circassians were placed, they would soon become peaceable and orderly subjects of the Sultan.

They were now anxious to be settled, to build villages and to raise, by cultivating the soil, what they required for their subsistence. The Russians had again driven them from their houses. The Porte was no doubt doing its best to find lands for them in Asia; but Shakir Pasha complained that a large number of them had been sent to Syria and Mesopotamia, where the climate from the great heat was not suitable to them, and that as they had been shipped off indiscriminately, and in great haste, families had been divided, husbands being sent to one part of Turkey and their wives to another, and parents being separated from their children. He begged me to use my influence with the Porte to induce it to take steps to bring them, if possible, together again and

to settle the Circassians in provinces in which the climate was more congenial to them than that of Arabistan.

Shakir Pasha maintained that the charges brought against the Circassians during the war were very much exaggerated. Although, he admitted, it could not be denied that they had availed themselves of the anarchy which had been caused by the Russian invasion to rob and plunder, they had not been guilty of all the crimes attributed to them. They had to bear the blame for everything. If they had not spared the Russians, it was because they could never forget that it was Russia who had pitilessly massacred their wives and their children, had deprived them of their property and their lands, and had driven them into hopeless exile. Every Circassian who had been captured during the war by the Russians had been summarily put to death. Under these circumstances was it surprising that they should look upon a Russian as an enemy to whom no mercy should be shown?

I promised Shakir Pasha to speak to the Prime Minister in behalf of the Circassian refugees. The Circassians, with all their faults, are worthy of pity. They were deprived of their country and compelled to seek refuge in Turkey, where they were hospitably received, and where lands were given to them. In this migration their losses from disease and famine were great. They still retained their tribal habits and looked more to their chiefs than to the Turkish authorities. Had they been ruled with a strong hand they would probably soon have settled down into quiet and useful colonists; but whilst their chiefs were no longer allowed to exercise control over them the lax local administration under which they lived encouraged them to indulge in their natural propensity for lifting their neighbours' cattle. They could still be turned to good account by the Porte. There is no want of waste lands in Asia Minor upon which they could be settled, and with proper training and discipline they would furnish, in the opinion of English military men who have seen them in the field, a considerable body of excellent irregular cavalry, of which the Turkish army is greatly in need. If it were not for the excessive heat of the climate, to which, however, they might in time become accustomed, they might be settled upon the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris as military colonies to keep in check the marauding Bedouin Arabs, who have hitherto prevented the cultivation of the rich lands watered by those great rivers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 586.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 602. Confidential.)
Therapia, May 11, 1878.

My Lord,

ALI BEY who, with Nehat Pasha, left Constantinople yesterday for Batoum to inquire into, and report to the Turkish Government upon, the condition of affairs in Lazistan, called upon me in the morning before his departure. I judge, from what I gathered from him, that his instructions are to endeavour to calm the Lazes, and to prevent their committing any act which might lead to hostilities with the Russians; but, at the same time, not to yield to any demand for the surrender of Batoum without express orders from the Porte. The Commissioners are to endeavour, by negotiations, to delay giving any definite answer to the Russians. If, however, the Russians were to attack Batoum, Ali Pasha led me to understand that it would be defended, and in that case the Lazes would, no doubt, be encouraged to do their utmost against the enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 587.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 603.)
Therapia, May 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE on many occasions called the attention of the Turkish Ministers to the expediency of conciliating the Armenian population of Asia Minor, and of protecting them against the Kurds. I have brought to their notice the reports that I have

received, from official and other sources, of the ill-treatment to which the Armenians have been exposed from the local authorities, and have urged upon them the necessity of taking, without delay, such measures as are required to remove the causes of their just complaints. It is especially important that the Porte should, under present circumstances, do all in its power to prove to the Armenians that it is determined to secure to them in future just and equal government, and that Russia should thus be deprived of a pretext for interfering on their behalf, and of raising an "Armenian question" which may prove the source of fresh difficulties to Turkey, and afford Russia a further opportunity of extending her influence, and ultimately her rule, in the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan.

I have strongly advised the Prime Minister to take immediate steps to prevent a repetition of the depredation and excesses which have been of late committed by the Kurds upon the Armenians of the Pashalic of Erzeroom and Diarbekir, as described by Vice-Consul Biliotti and Mr. Rassam, whom I sent into Armenia for the express purpose of reporting to me on this subject. I have recommended that the present Governors of those Provinces, whose conduct is highly praised by Mr. Rassam and by the American Missionaries with whom I am in correspondence, should be provided with a sufficient military or police force to afford the protection which they are anxious, but unfortunately unable, to give to the Christians.

I have found Sadyk Pasha and his predecessor, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, ready to listen to and to act upon my representations. I have the honour to inclose a report addressed to me by Mr. Sandison upon this subject. Your Lordship will perceive that the Prime Minister has now determined to send a special Commissioner, Ali Shefik Bey, to Armenia, for the purpose of examining into and redressing the grievances of the Armenians, and that the military authorities on the spot have been authorized to employ force for the repression of excesses committed by the Kurds, and for the punishment of their authors.

It appears to me very desirable that we should have a Consul or Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, or some other place on the borders of the country inhabited by the Kurds, who might keep the Embassy informed of what is passing in those regions. Her Majesty's Ambassador could use his influence for improving the condition of the Armenians and for removing, by representations to the Porte, the grievances of which they may have to complain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 587.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Therapia, May 10, 1878.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I have on several occasions called the Porte's serious attention to the cruel position of the Armenians in the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Diarbekir, for which the Porte, I said, could offer no excuse, particularly at a moment when it could dispose of its military forces and other means to bring about a better state of things in those parts of the country.

I must do Safvet Pasha justice in saying that his Excellency has all along done everything in his power to carry out your Excellency's recommendations on this occasion, and it may be all the more gratifying to be able to state that he has lately availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by Mr. Biliotti's despatch of 2nd ultimo to lay the matter in a very strong light before the Council of Ministers.

A decision has accordingly been come to to send a special Commissioner (Ali Shefik Bey) into those provinces for the purpose of examining and redressing the grievances of the oppressed Armenian population.

Full powers have at the same time been given to the military authorities on the spot to employ force for the punishment and repression of the excesses committed by the Kurds, as well as for the future protection and security of the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 588.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 25.*)

(No. 605)

Therapia, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Sulina, and the substance of a despatch from the French Vice-Consul at Toultcha which my French colleague has been kind enough to communicate to me, relating to the proceedings of the Russians at those two places.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 588.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sulina, May 11, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russians are building another battery on the opposite side of the river (directly opposite the buildings of the European Commission of the Danube. They are also fortifying Toultcha. The Russian Civil Governor of Sulina continues acting in a most arbitrary manner, billeting Russian officers and soldiers in the houses of British subjects, where the British subjects have scarcely room for themselves. Has the Governor a right to do this?

I am, &c.

(Signed) O. STOKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 588.

Précis of Despatch from French Vice-Consul at Toultcha, dated May 11, 1878.

THE Russians are busy fortifying Sulina, and on the 7th instant a transport arrived at Toultcha with a cargo of trenching tools. On the 8th another vessel arrived with four heavy Krupp guns, eight mortars, thirty smaller pieces, and a large quantity of ammunition. On the 9th the engineers commenced making a battery on a rock to the north-east of the town, which commands the Danube as far as the meeting of the St. George and the Sulina. The Russian officers state that other batteries are to be created.

On the 11th May the Municipality informed the inhabitants that all available carts would be requisitioned to convey loads of stone to the banks of the river. Part of this material is probably intended for the construction of the batteries, and part to be loaded on vessels which would be sunk in the stream in order to block it in case of need.

All boats are now registered by the police, and none are allowed to leave. The Russians are working hard on the road between Matchin and Pod-Bashi, opposite Ibraïla, soldiers being constantly employed at this work. The bridge between Pod-Bashi and Ibraïla is only open for ships for one hour during the day. Troops keep arriving at Matchin from the interior, particularly cavalry from the Balkans, on their way to Roumania.

Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, Governor-General of Bulgaria, arrived at Toultcha on the 9th instant, and in reply to an address from the Bulgarian Bishop, in which a hope was expressed that the Dobrudscha would not be detached from Bulgaria, merely said that nothing had as yet been decided respecting that Province, but that Russia had no intention of keeping it.

No. 589.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 608.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 14, 1878.

THE English press seems to have assumed that Russia has a right under the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano to demand the surrender of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, and that the Porte, whilst admitting this right, is purposely delaying to perform the duty imposed upon it, and is making futile excuses to evade it. Such is not the case. In the Treaty there is no provision whatever for the surrender of Shumla and Varna to Russia. On the contrary, it is to the Principality of Bulgaria when constituted, and after its limits are defined, that they are to belong, and to be given up. This view would appear to be confirmed by the VIIIth Article, which provides specially that Russia may organize for the term of the occupation of Bulgaria the necessary depôts at Bourgas and Varna for the purpose of maintaining her communications. It is only in this Article that there is any mention of Varna. It seems to be assumed that Varna and Shumla are in the same category as the fortresses on the Danube; but the latter were placed in the hands of Russia by the Convention of Armistice entered into at Adrianople, whilst no mention was made of Varna and Shumla.

As regards Batoum, the final arrangement for the evacuation by Russia of that part of the Turkish possessions in Asia occupied by, but not ceded to, her, is to take place, according to the XXVth Article, within the space of six months, dating from the conclusion of the definitive peace, which by the last Article is to follow the Preliminary Treaty; and by the XIXth Article the definitive limits of the territory annexed to Russia are to be fixed by Russian and Ottoman Delegates. It would appear, therefore, that Russia has no right to demand the immediate surrender of Batoum, which should depend upon the carrying out of the general arrangements contemplated by the Treaty. Russia still occupies Erzeroum, and a large portion of Turkish territory which will not be included within the limits assigned to her in Asiatic Turkey, and those limits have not yet been defined.

It would appear, therefore, that the Porte is justified by the terms of the Treaty in declining to surrender to Russia Shumla and Varna, and in delaying the surrender of Batoum until the Treaty is fully carried out.

It is scarcely necessary to add that Russia refuses to give up territory and positions which she occupied in absolute violation of the Treaty and of solemn engagements.

When the Grand Duke Nicholas passed the line of demarcation and the neutral zone fixed by the armistice, and occupied San Stefano, it was on the distinct understanding, if I was rightly informed at the time, that he would only advance with about 1,300 men. The manner in which that promise has been kept is well known; nor has the Russian Government yet sent back the Turkish prisoners of war, as it was bound to do, and as Roumania has done.

The Porte professes itself ready to perform all the obligations imposed upon it by Treaty when the time comes for it to do so. If it yields as regards Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, it will be to force, and not to right.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 590.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 610)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 15, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 456 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a telegram I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti, containing an Address to Her Majesty the Queen from the population of Lazistan, and also a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 590.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Trebizond, May* 10, 1878.

RECEIVED last night, for transmission, the following Address to the Queen, signed by eight delegates on behalf of the populations of the Lazistan:—

"Being aware that all the populations, without distinction of class, of the whole of your Imperial Dominions, are considered as being your Majesty's own blood, and being likewise aware that Russia is oppressive and tyrannical, we, inhabitants of Batoum and its neighbourhoods, numbering 200,000 souls, will all die rather than submit by force to her rule. Under these circumstances we have placed ourselves under the protection of your Majesty's Government; and feeling confident that the several telegrams which we have addressed, through your Ambassador at Constantinople, to both Houses of Parliament and to the Mansion House, will be taken with favourable consideration, we are waiting for a reply. The Russians having heard of our application, collected an imposing force, which crossed our frontier in four different places; they being in possession of new arms while we have old ones, we are in great need of improved rifles; and if in a few days three iron-clads arrive here we shall be greatly strengthened also on the shore side. We respectfully beg your Majesty to take pity on our wives and children, and to protect us against Russian oppression and tyranny."

Inclosure 2 in No. 590.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1878.

YOU must discourage telegrams from Lazes such as that sent yesterday. I can only forward them to England by post, and they can be of no use under present circumstances.

No. 591.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 611. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a telegram addressed to the Porte by Aarify Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at Paris, relating a conversation with M. Waddington, a copy of which has reached me from a confidential source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 591.

Aarifi Pasha to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Paris, le Mai,* 1878.

JE viens d'avoir avec M. Waddington un long entretien où il s'est montré plus expansif que d'ordinaire.

* * * *

Si le Congrès se réunit, l'attitude de la France tend en général à marcher de concert avec l'Angleterre dans les délibérations. Sa neutralité et son désintéressement garantissent son impartialité. Elle défendra l'équilibre Européen et les idées de justice, en conservant des Traités de 1856 et 1871, ce qui sera équitablement compatible avec les changements rendus inévitables par la dernière guerre. Elle cherchera à restreindre la Bulgarie à ses limites naturelles, en la faisant reculer autant que possible vers les Balkans, de façon à élargir le territoire environnant Constantinople et à faire une Bulgarie véritable et non une Bulgarie hétérogène. Le Traité de San Stéfano est exécutoire dans certains de ses articles et modifiable dans d'autres. M. Waddington a invariablement décliné de discuter cet acte, et le Prince Orloff dit qu'il exprimerait

son sentiment lorsque des délibérations Européennes s'ouvriraient. Il y a cependant un point sur lequel il a cru devoir faire observer: l'extension de la Bulgarie jusqu'à la Mer Egée. M. Waddington ne dissimule pas qu'il voit là une grave difficulté au point de vue de la France, qui ne saurait admettre que de nouveaux Etats se forment sur le littoral de la Méditerranée; et il a invité le Général Leflô à s'exprimer dans ce sens à St. Pétersbourg. La neutralité de la France, deuxième Puissance financière et possédant une armée reconstituée et forte, ne voulant pas s'engager dans des aventures ou dans des questions où intérêt national ou matériel ne serait pas directement impliqué, cette position donne à sa voix le poids de l'impartialité.

Sans sortir d'une mesure convenable, elle apporte son concours aux efforts d'apaisement que se poursuivent entre les Cabinets, et son influence continuera à être employée dans cette direction.

No. 592.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 613.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 15, 1878.

PRINCE LABANOFF, the new Russian Ambassador, arrived at Pera yesterday. I requested Mr. Jocelyn to call upon him immediately after his arrival, to present my compliments to him, and to offer my congratulations. His Excellency, who was much pleased with Mr. Jocelyn's visit, expressed his intention of calling upon me to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 593.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 615.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of an official notification addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, by the Mutessarif of Prevesa, respecting the laying down of torpedoes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 593.

Hassan Sefti to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the officers who came here from Constantinople have laid down several torpedoes, and as formerly, vessels are still prohibited from entering this port, must not, under any circumstances whatever, anchor within a mile's distance of the fort of Pandokratara, nor between Fort Punta and the fortifications at Paleosaragha. All vessels entering this port must anchor opposite the town. Vessels passing through the Straits must neither anchor opposite the citadel, nor opposite the windmill at the Punta (Action), and they must not spread their sails before heaving up their anchors.

The above is made known to you in consequence of a communication received from the Captain of the Port, and you are begged to make it known to the subjects of your Government for their guidance.

(Signed) HASSAN SEFTI.

No. 594.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 616.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert respecting a Proclamation issued to the Bulgarians by the Grand Duke Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 594.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Lagard.

Philippopolis, May 5, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a Proclamation from the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Bulgarians was issued here to-day. I have not yet been able to procure a copy or translation of the Proclamation, but I understand that it calls upon the Bulgarians to live at peace with their Mussulman, Greek, and other neighbours, and tells them not to heed the current reports relative to the delimitation of Bulgaria, the Treaty of San Stefano being final as regards the new Principality, which will continue to be occupied by Russian troops during the next two years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 595.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 618.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 15, 1878.*

I INCLOSE an extract from the "Levant Herald" of yesterday relating to the grievances of the Greeks of Roumelia against the Russo-Bulgarian rule, and the steps they are taking at Constantinople to obtain some protection. They complain that the Russians and Bulgarians are systematically driving them from their churches, closing their schools, and confiscating their communal property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 595.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of May 14, 1878.

THE GREEKS OF THRACE.—THE NEW BULGARIA.—A number of Greek residents from various parts of Thrace have arrived in Constantinople to take counsel with the leading Greeks of the capital, and the Greek ecclesiastical authorities, with regard to the hardships and grievances which they at present endure, and they desire also to bring their case before the Representatives of the European Powers. They complain that they are now, throughout Thrace, wherever the Russian domination extends, not only without adequate protection, but subject to grievous wrongs. In the census which the Russians are preparing with a view to an immediate conscription in case of war with England, Greeks in numbers are set down as Bulgarians, with a view to afterwards pressing them into the Russo-Bulgarian military service, throughout the new Tributary State of Bulgaria. They further complain that the Russians are systematically driving out the Greeks from their churches, either actively, or by consent and acquiescence—and handing over these churches to the Bulgarians, as also, in many places, Greek schools and the communal property and institutions of the Greek inhabitants. We believe that the Greek Patriarch is being very strongly urged to take some earnest measures, in his capacity of ethnarch, to cause protection to be afforded to the perplexed and harassed Greek populations of Thrace.

No. 596.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 622.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Stokes respecting the state of affairs at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 596.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Sulina, May 5, 1878.*

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russians are continually receiving munitions of war from Odessa, and it is currently reported that they intend to fortify Sulina. To-morrow a corps of 1,500 sappers are expected to arrive here. At Tultcha they have collected a quantity of stone, for the purpose of blocking the river when required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVUS STOKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 596.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Sulina, May 9, 1878.*

I HAVE now the honour of reporting to your Excellency that the Russians have thrown up a very strong earthwork, situated between the Hospital of the European Commission and the Protestant Cemetery, and in which (it is reported) they intend placing forty 5-ton guns. This battery faces the entrance to the port.

They have also nearly completed a pontoon bridge, strongly linked together with heavy chains; but where they intend to place it is not yet known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVUS STOKES.

No. 597.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 623.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 15, 1878.*

THE Sultan sent Said Pasha to me yesterday to ask me whether I thought Her Majesty's Government could do anything to assist the Porte in providing for the Mussulman refugees, or in obtaining from Russia facilities for them to return to their homes, and some guarantee for their safety should they do so. Said Pasha stated that the sufferings of these poor people were very great; not only those in the capital, but those who had been sent into the Asiatic provinces, were dying of hunger in considerable numbers, and the Turkish Government had no means to provide them with food. In some places, driven to despair by hunger, they had plundered the bakers' shops. The danger of a serious outbreak in consequence of this state of things was great. When, relying upon the assurances given by the Russians, some of the fugitives had returned to their villages, they were set upon by the Bulgarians, and plundered and massacred; and no protection nor redress could be obtained from the Russian authorities. The refugees were therefore afraid to go back to their homes.

Said Pasha told me that he had eighty refugees in his own house. Nine of them and two of his servants had died of typhus and typhoid fever. The dwellings of most of the well-to-do Turks are filled with fugitives, and disease is, I fear, increasing in the city and suburbs in consequence.

I begged Said Pasha to tell the Sultan that I would submit what he had said to

your Lordship, but that I was unable to hold out any hopes that Her Majesty's Government could afford assistance in the matter. Unfortunately the funds that had been placed at my disposal for the relief of the fugitives were nearly exhausted, and I feared that little more could now be done by private charity.

The proposal of the Consuls for the addition of 2 per cent. to the duties levied upon articles imported for consumption at Constantinople, which was referred to in my despatch No. 545 of 28th ultimo, and to which Her Majesty's Government assented, appears to have fallen through. None of my colleagues, as far as I am aware, have yet received an answer on the subject from their Governments, except the Minister of the United States, who, I am informed, has been instructed not to accede to the proposal. The German Ambassador, I am told, expects to receive a similar reply. If such be the case, the other Powers cannot, of course, consent to an increase of the duties levied on their subjects.

The Porte has made a counter proposal to that submitted to it, a copy of which is inclosed. Your Lordship will perceive that it suggests that the additional 2 per cent. should be levied at other ports besides Constantinople, and should be placed on exports as well as imports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 597.

Counter-Proposal of the Porte respecting Mussulman Refugees.

LA Sublime Porte a été très sensible à la démarche collective par laquelle les Représentants des Puissances amies ont témoigné des sentiments que leur inspirent le complet dénouement de la population de Roumélie réfugiée à Constantinople. Le danger résultant des maladies contagieuses qui la déciment et l'impossibilité de remédier à un état de choses aussi anormal sans un effort proportionné à la grandeur du mal.

Dans la conversation que son Altesse le Premier Ministre a eue avec MM. les Dragomans le $\frac{26 \text{ Avril}}{8 \text{ Mai}}$, 1878, il a eu soin d'indiquer les raisons pour lesquelles l'établissement à titre provisoire d'une taxe spéciale de secours calculés sur les droits actuellement perçus par la Douane, constituait dans les circonstances présentes le moyen le plus sûr pour la Sublime Porte de se procurer immédiatement les fonds nécessaires pour pouvoir à l'éloignement des dangers et au soulagement des misères causées par l'émigration.

Comme le nombre des émigrés s'élève à environ 150,000, la dépense totale, en calculant à 2 livres Turques seulement par tête, serait de 300,000 livres Turques au minimum. Pareille somme ne pourrait être fournie par le recouvrement de cette taxe dans la capitale seule sans une imposition qui atteindrait le 50 pour cent des droits de douane actuels et que le commerce de Constantinople serait incapable de supporter. Pour éviter cet inconvénient et réduire la surtaxe à 25 pour cent seulement, il est nécessaire d'en autoriser la perception sur toutes les marchandises importées ou exportées par le commerce extérieur, ainsi que sur celles qui sont transportées par mer d'un port de l'Empire à un autre pour la consommation intérieure, par les bureaux de Constantinople, de Samsoun, de Smyrne, de Beyrouth, d'Alep (Alexandrette) et de Salonique. On arriverait ainsi non seulement à ménager autant que possible les intérêts du commerce, en répartissant sur une plus grande étendue le droit proposé, mais aussi à égaliser en quelque sorte les conditions économiques des principaux ports de l'Empire qui contribueraient, chacun dans la mesure de son importance commerciale, à une œuvre d'hygiène publique et d'humanité d'un intérêt général. Une Commission Mixte disposerait des fonds que cette surtaxe rapportera, et qui devront être exclusivement consacrés au but que la démarche collective des Puissances s'est proposé.

La proposition de l'établissement d'une taxe spéciale et provisoire à la fixation de laquelle les droits de douane serviront de base ayant été communiquée verbalement à MM. les Dragomans, il y a tout lieu d'espérer qu'elle sera accueillie comme le seul moyen pratique d'éviter le danger très réel qui s'impose à si juste titre aux préoccupations générales.

No. 598.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 624.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli respecting affairs in that town, and a copy of a despatch from Captain Fife, respecting excesses committed by Greek Rayahs on the Mussulman population.

With reference to Mr. Odoni's despatch respecting the petition from certain villages the inhabitants of which are desirous of becoming British subjects, I have instructed him to give them no encouragement, but to recommend them to remain faithful subjects of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 598.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Gallipoli, le 6 Mai, 1878.*

IL y a déjà quelque temps que la majeure partie des primats Turcs et Grecs de Gallipoli, et villages environnants, m'ont exprimé l'intention qu'ils avaient, tant eux que les autres habitants, de devenir sujets Anglais, étant prêts à dresser la pétition nécessaire qui serait signée par les populations en masse. Je suis parvenu à les dissuader de prendre des mesures extrêmes et leur ai fait entendre que l'Angleterre fera tout ce qui dépendra d'elle pour amener Sa Majesté le Sultan et son Gouvernement à assurer à l'avenir le bien-être de toutes les populations Ottomanes sans distinction de race.

Maintenant ce sont les primats de la population Turque, les Cazas de Malgara, Evrékié et Kessan qui (je dois me servir de cette expression) ne me laissent pas tranquille. Ils veulent absolument, tant eux que la population qu'ils représentent, devenir des sujets de Sa Majesté la Reine Victoria. J'ai beau leur dire que l'Angleterre étant l'amie de la Turquie, ne saurait accepter des propositions pareilles de la part de n'importe quels sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan. J'ai beau leur répéter ce que j'ai déjà dit aux primats Turcs et Grecs de Gallipoli et des villages environnants. J'ai beau aussi leur dire que je ne vois pas la nécessité, pour eux, de prendre une telle décision, puisque l'état de choses actuel ne saurait se prolonger pour longtemps. Ils insistent et m'accusent de peu de fidélité envers Sa Majesté la Reine, ajoutant que si je ne leur donne pas une réponse favorable, sous peu, ils se présenteront directement chez le Gouvernement, pour déclarer qu'ils ne se considèrent plus comme des sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, mais qu'ils se considèrent comme les sujets de Sa Majesté la Reine Victoria.

J'ai dit que je comprends que l'état de misère dans lequel ils se trouvent actuellement les engage à prendre une décision qu'ils supposent être de nature à améliorer leur position mais que je suis d'avis qu'ils s'en repentiront bientôt. Ils ont répondu que quand même les Russes se retireraient de leurs villages, ils se considéreraient toujours comme déliés du devoir de fidélité envers un Souverain qui ne leur inspire aucune confiance. Il y en a deux parmi eux que je connais personnellement depuis longtemps, et que j'ai instamment priés d'user de leur influence pour ne pas arriver à une décision qui serait peut-être désastreuse pour eux, et qui pourrait nuire d'une manière très grave aux intérêts du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan dans les circonstances politiques actuelles. Ils m'ont promis qu'ils feront tout leur possible pour engager les autres primats aussi à patienter encore pour quelque temps.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 598.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 6 Mai, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que hier, à l'occasion de la fête du Roi des Hellènes, le Vice-Consul de Grèce, M. P. Giannetto, a fait chanter un Te Deum à l'église Grecque de St. Georges.

Le Gouverneur, Rechad Pacha, était présent, et M. l'Amiral Commerell s'est fait représenter par deux officiers. Mr. Fife, ainsi que tout le Corps Consulaire, assistaient à ce Te Deum.

Après la cérémonie le Vice-Consul de Grèce a invité le Gouverneur, les officiers, Mr. Fife, et le Corps Consulaire, à se rendre chez lui où il a porté un toast à la prospérité de Sa Majesté la Reine et de la nation Anglaise, faisant des vœux pour l'accomplissement d'une entente cordiale entre l'Angleterre et la Grèce.

J'ai répondu par des paroles appropriées à la circonstance, me faisant en même temps l'interprète de celles prononcées par les officiers et par Mr. Fife. Ensuite M. le Consul de Grèce a proposé un toast à la santé de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

M. P. Giannetto m'a dit qu'il informera le Gouvernement Hellénique de l'honneur que M. l'Amiral a bien voulu lui faire de se faire représenter au Te Deum, ne pouvant se trouver présent lui-même pour cause de service.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 598.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, May 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that refugees from the district of Sharkui state that on the 5th May 300 Greek subjects of the Porte, from the villages of Palamuth, Isnudik, and Denedpkeui, came in succession to the Mussulman villages of Beykui, Emiranli, Isali, Mustehjeb, and Urar. While 200 surrounded a village the remaining 100 entered to pillage it. They killed three Turks and wounded fifteen. Cossacks had been previously observed to come from the town of Malgara to the Greek villages, where they remained until the inhabitants had started on their errand of destruction. These refugees beg for assistance to emigrate into Asia.

Another refugee states that the same band of Greek Rayahs plundered in the same way the village of Kaladjikeui, in the district of Malgara, killing six men, and wounding fourteen others, men and women.

The first-mentioned refugees, viz., those from the Sharkeui district, brought a written complaint and statement of their evidence to Mr. Odoni, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Gallipoli. He referred them to the Governor, who forwarded their petitions to the Turkish Government.

The Russians, on their arrival in the country, transferred the arms from the Turks to the Greeks; if the Turks were armed they would be able to defend themselves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain, Military Attaché.*

No. 599.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 403. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Agent confidentially communicated to me to-day a telegram from his Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, respecting the military preparations being made by the Russians to prevent an enemy's fleet from passing up the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 599.

Telegram from the Roumanian Government to their Agent at Vienna.

Bucarest, le 18 *Mai*, 1878.

IL résulte d'informations officielles que deux vaisseaux Russes chargés de canons de gros calibre et de campagne, de matériel et de différentes munitions, sont arrivés à Toultcha, que des travaux de fortification sont effectués par les Russes sur des hauteurs des rives du Danube dans le but d'empêcher le passage d'une flotte ennemie et qu'on transporte constamment des pierres à Soulina.

No. 600.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 404. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Agent tells me confidentially that his Government had completed the purchase in England of a number of rifles, of which from 50,000 to 60,000 are to be delivered immediately, together with a quantity of ammunition, but he was not able to tell me the pattern of the arm.

M. Balatchano had spoken to Count Andrassy about the transit of these arms through the Austro-Hungarian dominions, and was extremely well satisfied with the way in which his Excellency had received his request, and had promised to write on the subject to M. Tisza, the Hungarian Prime Minister. Ten or twelve days have, however, elapsed, and M. Balatchano is becoming doubtful of M. Tisza's goodwill in this matter, and he apprehends that, as a pretext for not acceding to the request, the difficulty of not granting a similar permission to the Russians if it should be asked may be alleged.

He represents that Roumania, being now at peace with all the world, there can be no just reason for refusing the transit into the Principality of the arms required for the re-arming of her troops, and that the case would be entirely different if the Russians asked to be allowed to pass munitions of war into territories beyond their own dominions to an army still in the field.

I have requested Mr. Monson to let me know any information on the subject which he may be able confidentially to obtain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 601.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 408.)

Vienna, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 356 of the 5th instant, respecting the arrangements that were being concerted between the Turkish Ambassador and the Austrian Government relative to the island of Ada Kaleh on the Danube, I have the honour to inclose a secret report from Major Gomme, stating that it will be occupied by an Austrian garrison in a few days.

The estimate of the strength of the Turkish garrison is about double of what it was represented to me by the Turkish Ambassador, and the Turkish peasant occupiers are probably included in it, for it is not unlikely that they may have decided to emigrate upon the withdrawal of the garrison.

It is also to be remarked that the transfer of the island to Austria cannot properly be regarded as a precedent for the abandonment by the Porte of untenable territory, as the evacuation was decided by the Treaty of San Stefano, and would have been carried out at once if it had not been for the necessity of securing the Turkish inhabitants from the Servians, who would occupy the island if the Austrians did not do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 601.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

(Secret.)

Vienna, May 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Austrian Government has this day telegraphed orders for the occupation of the Island of Ada-Khalo.

I understand the Turks have consented to retire viâ Gradiska and Brod into Bosnia. The strength of the Turkish garrison is said to be 500 men.

The Austrians will march a column of infantry with artillery to the banks of the Danube, and pass a garrison to the island by means of local boats.

The column will be of some strength, on the chance of Slav resistance. Friday will probably be the date of occupation.

The fact of this island passing from the Turks into the possession of Austria is important in that it forms a precedent for territory untenable by the Porte being transferred to a neighbouring Power. However, I believe the Turks evacuate the island of their own free will, and not under threat of compulsion.

Your Excellency will pardon my requesting that this information shall be strictly confidential, as I am anxious to avoid risk of losing my source of War Office news.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Military Attaché.*

No. 602.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 410. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch from Mr. Monson in reference to the question of the transit of arms for the Roumanian Government, referred to in my despatch No. 404.

I had some conversation yesterday on the same subject with Baron Calice, who explained the hesitation felt by M. Tisza very much as that Minister did to Mr. Monson.

No confidence is felt that, whatever may be their present feelings, the Roumanians, in the event of a war with Russia, might not again be found acting with her, and a fresh supply of arms might thus be found to have been an assistance given to an enemy.

M. Balatchano, the Roumanian Agent, had spoken to Baron Calice with anxiety and apprehension of the understanding reported to be preparing between the Cabinets of London and St. Petersburgh, and had intimated his fear that Her Majesty's Government might have signified their acquiescence in the cession of Bessarabia, and his Excellency asked whether, if the Roumanians believed this to be the case, they might not be expected to join Russia in a war against England and Austria.

I said that I considered such an eventuality as in the highest degree improbable; that Her Majesty's Government, like that of Austria, would greatly regret to see Roumania despoiled of Bessarabia and the Russian dominions advanced to the Danube, and that your Lordship would certainly do all in your power to avert such a consummation, though the Roumanians might be right in believing that neither of our two Governments, if they failed in their pacific efforts, would make a refusal of the Russian Government to abandon their demand a *casus belli*, provided other and more important concessions were obtained from them. The Bessarabian question would have probably to be dealt with by a Congress, and the Roumanians would have to submit to the European decision; but I could not foresee a case in which it would be for their advantage to side with Russia in a war. Russia would not purchase the alliance of Roumania by a promise of a guarantee of the territory in question, and the promise would not be believed if offered; while on the other hand, by joining Great Britain and Austria, they could indulge in a reasonable hope of the province being preserved to them.

Baron Calice told me that he had encouraged M. Balatchano to go to Pesth to

see M. Tisza on the subject of the passage of the arms, Count Andrassy being favourable to the permission being granted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 602.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, May 21, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch, marked Confidential, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I saw the Prime Minister, M. Tisza, this afternoon, and asked him confidentially whether any application had been made for the free transit through Hungary of the rifles and ammunition recently purchased in England for the Roumanian Government.

M. Tisza declined to tell me whether an official application in that sense had been made, but said that he knew of the purchase, and of the desire of the Roumanian Government that the arms and ammunition should be allowed to pass without obstacle on the part of Hungary. But he added that he did not quite see his way to a decision on the subject; because, if permission were given to Roumania, it would probably be asked for a similar purpose by another Power.

I replied, in accordance with what I know to be your Excellency's opinion, that as he of course referred to Russia, it seemed to me that there was a strongly marked difference between the two cases; that Roumania is at peace, and desires only to repair deficiencies in the equipment of her army stationed within her own territory, whereas Russia would require such facilities for troops still in campaign beyond her own Empire.

M. Tisza said that that was quite true, but that Roumania had been the other day the ally of Russia, and that there was no absolute certainty that she would not be so again. He admitted that at this moment such a contingency did not appear probable, but he was bound to take note of all possibilities, and be cautious in his action. He had seen enough of Roumanian politicians to cause him to feel very doubtful of their sincerity.

After some further discussion his Excellency assured me that if he saw his way to doing so safely, he was on the whole disposed to raise no obstacle to the passage of these munitions of war through Hungary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 603.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 411.)

Vienna, May 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE made inquiry into the circumstance reported in Commander Grenfell's letter to Lord Odo Russell of the 14th instant, of which a copy will have been forwarded to your Lordship, respecting the cases apparently containing torpedoes, which had arrived at Kiel from Mr. Whitehead's establishment at Fiume, and had been afterwards forwarded to a Russian port.

During the war between Russia and Turkey the Austro-Hungarian Government, as your Lordship is aware, prohibited the delivery of torpedoes from Fiume to either of the belligerent States, and this prohibition continued in force until the total interdiction of their exportation.

I learn, however, that just before the issue of this prohibition forty-four torpedoes had been supplied to the German Government, but whether these were sent to the Baltic, or what their ultimate destination may have been, I have not been able to ascertain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 604.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 547.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a précis which I have received from Mr. Consul Campbell, of information contained in the "Helsingfors Dagblad," on military and naval matters in Finland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 604.

Newspaper Extracts.

From the "Helsingfors Dagblad" of May 14, 1878.

THE mobilization of the Finnish sea equipage is immediately expected in consequence of the Russian Minister of Marine having represented the absolute necessity of increasing this equipage to the same number as the Russian. At present the Finnish sea equipage consists of one company, it will now consequently be increased, through enlistment, to four companies.

Contre-Admiral Crown has been appointed chief of the staff to Admiral Butakoff, (Sveaborg's defender by sea and land).

An exhortation to participate in the subscription opened for the equipment of cruizers has been received by the authorities in Finland.

From the "Helsingfors Dagblad" of May 16, 1878.

RUSSIAN MILITARY IN FINLAND.—Colonel Wittnur has been appointed chief of the staff in Sveaborg.

FINLAND'S COAST DEFENCES.—It is reported that Admirals Pushio and Stezenko have been appointed to commands, the one in Abo, and the other in Wiborg.

THE PRIVATEERING QUESTION.—In the yesterday's number of the "Unsi Tuomi" we read: "The Moscow Committee, whose purpose is to collect money for the equipment of private cruizers, has, through its president, Fürst Dolgoruki, just sent to the authorities in Finland, a public appeal to assist them in their enterprize." As we have already said, it would not be at all proper (suitable) for us Fins to participate in this undertaking, because in the event of war actually breaking out between Great Britain and Russia, the English would have an opportunity of making reprisals on our undefended coasts, and our participation in the equipment of such cruizers would be of no benefit to the country.

From the "Helsingfors Dagblad" of May 16, 1878.

REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF SWEDISH STEAMERS FOR RUSSIA.—The steamship "Dottning Louisa" sailed from Stockholm on the 6th instant, without either cargo or passengers, bound for Baltic Port. The reason for the sudden departure of the steamer, according to reliable authority, says the D. N., was, that she was sold to the Russian Government for a price of 240,000 kronor. It is said, however, that the

sale is not definitely concluded, but only depends upon in how far the vessel has the speed guaranteed by the sellers (The Motala Mechanical Works), and which must be tested at the port of delivery.

In connection with this we are informed that the Russian Government are in treaty for the purchase of five other fast large steamers. Up to the present moment, however, no actual purchase of the last-mentioned boats has been made, and the result will doubtless depend on the question of peace or war with England.

From the "Hufvudstadsblad" of May 16, 1878.

Preparations for war within Finland have now been recommenced with increased vigour.

REGARDING THE NEW FINNISH TROOPS.—The Imperial Senate has recommended the enlistment of batallions in preference to the organization of the "Indelta" troops.

The ironclad "Peter Paulwitzch" has just entered the harbour, 4 P.M., 16th May, 1878.

No. 605.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Stockholm, May 21, 1878.*

THE credit of 2,000,000 kroner (111,000*l.*), demanded by the Crown to maintain the neutrality of Sweden in case of war, was yesterday voted by both branches of the Diet without any difficulty. But in the Lower Chamber, M. Hedin, a leading member of the Liberal party, asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs to be good enough to tranquillize public opinion as to the reports in circulation, that the Northern Powers were in treaty with Germany, for the purpose of showing a certain amount of illwill towards one of the hostile Powers, and of restraining the action of that Power as far as was compatible with the position of a neutral. The previous declaration of Government, that there was no foundation for this report, had been received with general satisfaction; but if the Minister could now declare that no negotiations had taken place with a view to the contingency of the entrance of an English fleet into the Baltic, his Excellency would entitle himself in a high degree to the public gratitude.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, General Björnstjerna, then said that he availed himself with great pleasure of the opportunity afforded by M. Hedin's inquiry to announce that there was absolutely no foundation for any such report. That neither England, Russia, nor Germany had made any observations contemplating the conversion of the Baltic into a closed sea, or which concerned the landing of troops, or in any way sought to obtain for either of the Powers the support of the Northern Kingdoms in the event of war. All such reports were a mere fiction. His Excellency went on to attribute these reports to a well-known manufactory at Copenhagen, and said they had already been contradicted by the Danish Government. "We are," his Excellency continued, "on excellent terms with our neighbours, both to the east and west, and should war unhappily ensue, we should have no reason to apprehend that our neutrality would be infringed by either belligerent. The United Kingdoms are pursuing the same policy now as in the years 1854 and 1855, and there is every reason to assume that our neutrality would be as completely respected now as then."

I may take this opportunity of mentioning that, as in 1877, the Norwegian Storthing declined to vote the funds applied for by Government to uphold the neutrality of the Kingdom, no fresh attempt will be made on this occasion, in so far as Norway is concerned, to obtain a neutral credit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 606.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote:—(Received May 25.)

Admiralty, May 24, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying extract from a letter of Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated the 9th instant, relative to telegraphic communication with Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 606.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

May 9, 1878.

(Extract.)

THE line to the Princes Island, now in course of construction by the Eastern Telegraph Company, should be completed as soon as possible, and each and all of the stations be put under the control and working of trustworthy Englishmen. In case of war, such an arrangement would, I think, be imperative to ensure messages being received as transmitted.

No. 607.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 503.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 663 of the 22nd instant, a mistake in the cyphered telegram I received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires has caused a misapprehension, as appears by following from him :—

"A communication from Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs leads me to suppose that there is a misapprehension with regard to my telegram of the 20th. I telegraphed to your Excellency that no chief named Milioki had crossed the frontiers or established a Provisional Government at Radovitz."

No. 608.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 504.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 491, Commissioners were appointed by the Porte and General Todleben to define positions to be occupied by the Turkish and Russian troops, but the Russians have demanded positions which the Turks could not concede without endangering the lines of defence, and nothing has been done. Russians are gradually approaching on all sides, and are evidently preparing for an attack upon Turkish lines should war be once imminent. The Turks are getting up troops from Shumla and Thessaly, and hope in a few days to be in a condition to resist an attack. Should they not be able to do so the consequences would be most serious, as the only remaining Turkish army, Turkish arsenals, depôts of arms, &c., would fall into the hands of Russia.

No. 609.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 505.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Biliotti, dated yesterday :—

"The Governor-General has just received the official news that Russians have evacuated Artwin."

No. 610.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 25, 1878.*

RETURNED here last night.

My visit to Montenegro was most opportune, and I have received the thanks both of the Prince and of the Pasha for having been the means of clearing up a misunderstanding which was forcing them to adopt measures which would have inevitably ended in conflicts.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 611.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 25, 1878.*

HAVE telegraphed following to Mr. Layard :—

"I think it right to say that with reference to my telegram of this morning, I am not sure that a disposition may not exist somewhere in Turkish quarter to complicate matters here. Questions which have been allowed to remain dormant since the cessation of hostilities are conspicuous for being raised, and a number of Christians of Podgoritza are being arrested on the ground that they sympathise with Montenegro. I hope a promise given me by the Pasha that he will take no serious step except under orders from the Porte will be kept, but I think that it would be prudent, if it is desired to avoid absolutely all complications, that the authorities here should be clearly told so.

No. 612.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, May 25, 1878.*

I LEARN from Vice-Consul at Fiume, that the German Government has received permission to export Whitehead torpedoes.

Portuguese Government has, in consequence, protested against detention of theirs.

French Government is endeavouring to obtain exportation of 100 torpedoes.

Sent to Vienna.

No. 613.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 25, 1878, 6 P.M.*

THE ships "Pojarski" and "Djigit" left Cronstadt under sealed orders. Destination kept secret, but supposed to be the Pacific. The "Petropaulovsk" is reported to have proceeded to Kiel, there to await orders.

It is said that the "Djigit" left with a complement of 600 men for three cruizers.

Hope to get further information on Monday.

No. 614.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 142.) (Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 25, 1878, 7·30 P.M.

THE explanation I have received respecting the export of torpedoes from Fiume for the (German Government ?) reported by Mr. Monson to-day, is that before the prohibition was issued, some had been already delivered to the agent of the (German Government ?).

When this fact was established, the exportation of these, about ten in number, was permitted, and the claim of the Portuguese Government to be allowed to export some similarly situated will be also admitted.

No. 615.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 132. Secret.)

Washington, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

AN Englishman called on me on the 10th instant, and, after conversing upon other subjects, informed me that a friend of his had stated that he had recently copied some documents containing a proposal from General Beale, late United States' Minister at Vienna, to the Russian Government, that he should be allowed to fit out a fast steamer at San Francisco as a cruizer, to hoist the Russian flag, and to put her under the command of Captain Waddell, who formerly commanded the Confederate cruizer "Shenandoah," and that the latter should take her out of that port, and capture, burn, and destroy all the British vessels he could meet with, abstaining from taking any of them before a Prize Court.

General Beale recently went to Europe with his wife and daughter. The pretext was to visit another daughter now in Paris, who had been bitten by a dog supposed to be mad. I had always suspected that he had some other reason for visiting Europe. He has a large property in California near San Francisco, and is also interested in the Pacific Mail Steam-Ship Company. A cousin of his, Mr. Houston, is the Vice-President of that Company, and is now here and inhabiting General Beale's house, endeavouring to obtain a subsidy from Congress for his Company. I had suspected that General Beale was commissioned to endeavour to sell to the Russian Government the Pacific Mail steamers, which it is notorious the Company is anxious to get rid of, because they are poorly built and cost a deal of money in repairs; but the scheme which I have mentioned above is a new light to me, and is, I think, by no means improbable; for General Beale has never concealed his strong pro-Russian feelings. His elder daughter is married to M. Bakhmeteff, one of the Secretaries to the Russian Embassy at Paris, and until General Beale left Washington, Mr. Williamow, Secretary to the Russian Legation in the United States, was a daily and almost hourly visitor at his house. It might be desirable to ascertain whether General Beale has gone to St. Petersburgh, and what he does there. I believe that Sir Andrew Buchanan is well acquainted with General Beale; he may perhaps have seen him, and may have learnt whether the General intended to visit that capital.

It is evident that even a single cruizer might, in the event of war, do a great deal of damage to our shipping if she were to leave San Francisco a little before its declaration; for it is probable that a number of British vessels, either in ballast or with British cargoes, will soon be flocking towards San Francisco to receive the large quantities of wheat which are now annually exported from California.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 616.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 133.)

My Lord,

Washington, May 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose various extracts from American newspapers, showing the tone of the press with regard to the question of fitting out Russian cruizers in ports of the United States.

The first of these is an article from the "New York Herald," which treats of the two questions of the sale of munitions of war and of ships to a belligerent. It shows that the former can lawfully be sold both before and after a declaration of war, but recommends that in the latter case they be sold on the condition of being delivered to the purchasing belligerent in the ports of the United States. With regard to ships it states that merchant-vessels may be sold to a belligerent, but it maintains that cruizers cannot be fitted out in the United States' ports in time either of peace or of war; and, it adds, that if it had been intended to arm the "Cimbria," now at South West Harbour, for depredations on British commerce, it would have been the duty of the United States' Government to detain her.

An article from the "Baltimore Sun" affirms that Russia, having signed the Declaration of Paris, is debarred from giving letters of marque, but may purchase, fit out, and arm cruizers wherever she can. The only question is as to there responsibility incurred by neutral Powers in permitting such acts within their jurisdiction. It doubts whether the principle maintained by the "New York Herald," that the intent to commit hostilities can be proved even before a declaration of war, will be applicable to cruizers fitted out in the United States' ports before war actually exists.

The "New York Tribune" alludes to the declarations which have been ascribed, and I believe with truth, to Captain Semmelskin, that his Government will not grant letters of marque, but will purchase and fit out cruizers in this country as men-of-war, which will leave United States' ports to prey upon British commerce.

The inclosed article maintains that the neutrality laws of the United States are in force in time of peace as well as of war, and that cruizers cannot be fitted out and armed when there is reasonable ground to believe that they are intended to cruize or carry on war against a Power with which the United States are at peace.

An article in the "New York Sun" of the 11th instant qualifies the Three Rules of the Treaty of Washington as a "diplomatic surrender," but observes that while the United States will fulfil the duties of a neutral, it can hardly be expected that in the event of a war the American people will strain a point to do more than duty demands of them for the benefit of Great Britain.

The "World" of the 12th instant contains a short article, asserting that the condition of the Three Rules being observed by the Contracting Parties was combined with that of inviting other Maritime Powers to accede to them, and adds that Great Britain has persistently refused to fulfil the latter condition. It asks, then, what is the present efficacy of the Three Rules?

The tone of this article makes me suspect that it was inspired by Mr. Fish.

An article in to-day's "New York Herald" argues that there is no reason why trade in ships should not be as free as munitions of war. It, however, observes that as the law now stands, and with Russia buying vessels both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States, all United States' men-of-war on foreign stations should be recalled in order to enforce the observance of the laws of neutrality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosures in No. 616.

Extracts from American Newspapers.

No. 617.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 130. Secret.)

Washington, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that as yet I have not been able to ascertain that any steamers have been purchased in this country by the Russian Government or by Russian agents, with a view to their being employed as cruizers to prey upon British commerce.

I inclose copy of a despatch and of its inclosure from the Acting Consul-General at New York, transmitting copy of a report made by a detective employed by him, which shows that no suspicion is attached to any steamers which are being built, or lying at ports within his Consular district.

I also inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Edwards, relative to the steamer "Doris," now lying at Delamater's machine yard at New York; but being myself at that city for a couple of days, I accompanied Admiral Gore Jones on a visit to the vessel, from which we returned convinced that she would be unfit for a cruizer, and was really destined for the service for which it was announced that she was intended, viz., to carry live cattle from Carthagena in Colombia to the Havana.

With reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, it appears that the paddle-wheel steamer "Great Republic" is an old vessel, unseaworthy, and that she has been sold for 25,000 dollars, not to the Russian Government or agents, but to a Company established in Oregon for preserving salmon, who intend to use her as a depôt at Portland in that State.

The steamer "State of California," also mentioned in the same telegram, has not yet been sold as far as I can learn, nor will she be ready to be launched till about the 15th of next month.

A list of steamers, of which two copies are inclosed, is published in the "New York Herald," of the 11th instant; these, it is stated, could be purchased if the prices demanded were paid; but a great many of them would be utterly unserviceable as cruizers, and some of them would not be for sale, for they are employed upon particular lines, and are bound by contract with the United States' Government to carry the mails at a certain rate of speed.

I also inclose a list which has been furnished to a friend of mine by Admiral Porter of the United States' Navy. This list contains the names of the vessels which he considers that Russia would be likely to buy, whilst those marked with an asterisk are what, in his opinion, would be fit to purchase. The latter are thirty-one in number; but I am convinced that many of these would be of very little use as cruizers. Those, for instance, mentioned as being in the Pacific, can none of them make more than ten knots an hour, and even then begin to leak.

Captain Semetschkin, who had already been announced by your Lordship, arrived at New York at the end of last week. He evidently is the officer who is at the head of whatever business is to be transacted in this country on account of the Russian Government, with regard to the purchase of ships, and has under his orders the officers and seamen who are on board the "Cimbria," as well as those officers of the Russian Navy who have arrived here by other steamers. As there are thirteen or fourteen of the latter, besides the sixty-three officers who are on board the "Cimbria," there can be little doubt that they have some object in view. Captain Semetschkin has himself declared, if the newspapers are to be believed, that he is instructed by his Government to purchase fast steamers in the United States, which will be converted into Russian cruizers, and manned by the sailors on board the "Cimbria," and by others who may be obtained in this country.

As yet, however, I have been unable to ascertain that any purchases have been made of such steamers, though I understand that offers have been made for the "State of California," now being built at Cramp's, in Philadelphia, and for the four steamers which are on the line between that city and Liverpool, the "Illinois," "Indiana," "Ohio," and Pennsylvania."

Being anxious, however, to obtain the earliest and most trustworthy news as to any purchases of steamers which may be made by Russian officers, I am employing an agent who, as I hope, will be able to furnish me with the desired information.

With reference to my secret despatch No. 113 of the 29th ultimo, in which I stated with regard to the fast gun-boat reported by Mr. Archibald to be lying at Rochester on Lake Ontario for sale, I had asked the Governor-General of Canada, in the event of her leaving that port, to have her movements watched, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency has since acquainted me that he had caused inquiries to be made, and had ascertained that there was no such steamer at Rochester, and indeed no steamers except two small tugs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 617.

Acting Consul-General Edwards to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.)

Sir,

New York, May 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, certain extracts from my detective's reports on shipping, &c., within this Consulate.

The statement that the two steamers at Kaighn's Point, New Jersey, heretofore reported to be for Russian account, are for legitimate trading purposes, would seem to be confirmed.

My informant has failed to discover anything of a suspicious nature in his tour along the shores of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The Spanish Consul-General here has informed me in confidence that the vessel spoken of as being built at Bristol, is, in fact, for his Government, and for use in Cuban waters.

My informant states that two steamers are in process of construction at Delamater's ship-yard in this place, but these are no doubt two steam launches which, the Consul-General tells me, are intended likewise for similar service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PIERREPONT EDWARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 617.

Extract from Detective's Report.

BY your directions I sent an agent to Kaighn's Point, New Jersey, to investigate the rumour concerning which an article appeared in to-day's "New York Sun," regarding the steamers "Brazil" and "Juno." Upon arriving at Kaighn's Point, my agent proceeded to the ship-yard of Messrs. Dialogue and Company, where we found the steamer "Vesta," a tow-boat undergoing repairs and alterations, viz., two masts, in order that she may carry sail fore and aft; we found her masts stepped and sails bent. We found that the "Brazil" had just gone down the bay on a trial trip. She is a new boat, hull of iron, about 100 tons burthen, and a fast sailer, cabin on deck, two masts and sails. While in conversation with one of the workmen in the yard, we were informed that the reports in reference to her having arms and ammunition on board were false; that one day this week six or seven muskets or rifles had been purchased and taken on board; also that some of the crew had purchased fire-arms, but that is all they have on board the "Brazil;" and further, that all the men in the yard laugh at the newspaper reports. Soon after the "Brazil" came in sight, landed her passengers on the Philadelphia side of the Delaware, thence down the stream, and about dusk came up to Dialogue's dock for the night. We further learned that she had been, within the last three weeks, purchased by a son of Colonel Thomas A. Scott, President, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for the purpose of towing and trading on the Amazon River in South America.

There is no such revenue cutter "Cox," but a boat named "Teneho Coxe," used for the purpose of boarding vessels entering the harbour by the Port Physician, also that she had nothing to do with the watching of the "Brazil" and "Juno," but simply lying up here when she had nothing else to do. A general survey and patrol was made of the harbour, but nothing new was seen or information elicited.

My agent, whom I notified you in my report of May 2nd had left here for points in Connecticut and Rhode Island, arrived at New Haven, Connecticut, at 12·37 A.M. to-day, and commenced his investigation along the shore line as far south as Oyster Point (West Haven), but observed nothing but small freight schooners; thence to Long Wharf, where we found several brigs and schooners, but no sea-going steamers; thence to East Haven, where, with the exception of a Sound steamer and a

tow-boat, we found nothing of importance. In the afternoon, Guilford and Saybrook were visited, but here we did not ascertain anything of interest; from here we proceeded to New London and East London, where there are several shipyards, and found that all were comparatively idle. My agent continued his inquiries and investigations, but could glean no news regarding the fitting out of vessels of any kind.

Later Report.

A general tour of the harbour of New York was made during the day, but nothing new or suspicious was ascertained or seen.

The Hamburgh and Bremen steamers were visited, so also were the sailors' boarding-houses, but no news of importance was ascertained.

My agent in the east has to-day arrived at Providence, Rhode Island, at which place he found nothing of a suspicious nature, and *en route* between New London and Providence all the ship-yards were visited, but we found all entirely idle, or little or nothing doing. However, at the wharf at Winson's Philadelphia Freight Line, at Providence, we noticed the steamer "Catherine Whiting." She, however, was lying up, with every door and companion-way secured. (In June 1869 she was seized in New York Harbour, through my information, attempting to take an expedition to Cuba). She is about 900 tons burthen, wooden hull, and a propeller.

At 2.15 P.M. my agent arrived at Bristol, Rhode Island, where we found the steamer "Estelle" (and, as I have been informed) still under a Government surveillance. We also saw a larger vessel upon the ways, and almost ready for launching, of larger dimensions than the "Estelle." A few men were working upon her. An effort was made to enter the yard, but we were denied admittance. However, we learned that she was to be supplied with one of Herreshoff's patent coil boilers. In a conversation with some of the residents at Bristol, we were informed that the destination of this vessel is unknown, but some say south, and others that she is for the Spanish Government. She is said to be almost 150 feet long, and will be launched about the 1st June. With the exception of this vessel, the "Estelle," and a few schooners, we noticed nothing of importance. After a thorough investigation of this harbour and vicinity, my agent returned to Providence, arriving there at 5.35 P.M.

Inclosure 3 in No. 617.

Acting Consul-General Edwards to Sir E. Thornton.

(Secret.) *New York, May* 11, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the steamer "Doris" has been for some days preparing for sea at Delameter's machine-yard at this place, under circumstances which have seemed to me to justify putting her under surveillance. The "Doris" is described to be a wooden steamer of 1,360$\frac{44}{100}$ tons burthen; nominal horse-power, 800; signal letters, H.F.L.S.; home port, Providence, Rhode Island; official number (according to the United States' Register) is 6,875.

She has two masts, fore and aft, sails all bent, fore and aft topsails, main and foresails; hull painted black, newly coppered, all above her main-deck painted white, cabin on deck aft, deck fore and aft inclosed, covered over, and is 213 feet long and 35 feet broad.

She has been recently coppered and provided with new spars and sails. For some days carpenters have been employed in arranging one of her decks with stalls for the accommodation of cattle or horses, but some of these stalls were yesterday removed with the object of stowing away three pontoon-bridges. She appears to have taken on board an extraordinary quantity of coal, some of which is piled on the deck; besides which she has several barrels of what is said to be "boiler-compound," for cleaning steam-boilers, but the quantity is very much greater than could possibly be used by any single ship.

It was stated to me by a casual volunteer informer some days since (the truthfulness of whose report, however, I have no means of testing) that about a week since, being in the neighbourhood, he saw two Russians, whom he recognized as such by their language, which he professes to understand, go on board this vessel, and apparently make an examination of her. He did not, however, follow these men, and could gain nothing of consequence from the fragments of conversation overheard.

My own detective, who has been watching the ship, is informed that she is destined for some southern port of South America, he states, but more probably Florida or Texas, to be employed in transporting cattle.

It may be that the destination of the "Doris" is as stated, but I deem it my duty to report the circumstances of the case to you, and will inform you when the vessel clears and her announced destination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PIERREPONT EDWARDS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 617.

Extract from the "New York Herald" of May 11, 1878.

Inclosure 5 in No. 617.

A partial List of Seaworthy Vessels sailing under the United States' Flag available for Duty as Commerce Destroyers.

ATLANTIC.

1. City of Para.*
2. City of Rio de Janeiro.*

(New steamers building at Chester.)

3. A.*
4. B.*
5. C.*

(New steamers building at Wilmington.)

6. A.*
7. B.*

(New steamers building off Philadelphia, Kaigh's Point.)

8. A.*
9. City of Austin.
10. City of Dallas.
11. State of Texas.*
12. City of Houston.
13. City of San Antonio.*
14. Carondolet.
15. Rio Grande.
16. Illinois.*
17. Indiana.*
18. Ohio.*
19. Pennsylvania.*
20. Acapulco.*
21. Colon.*
22. Niagara.*
23. Perhiomen.
24. Berks.
25. Williamsport.
26. Allentown.
27. Pottsville.
28. Clyde.
29. Geo. W. Clyde.
30. Columbus.
31. St. Paul
32. Rattlesnake.
33. Centipede.
34. Achilles.
35. Hercules.
36. Leopard.
37. Panther.
38. Reading.
39. Harrisburg.
40. Lancaster.
41. Rio Grande (No. 2).
42. No. 175 (J. Roach and Son).*
43. City of New York (No. 2), J. English.*
44. City of Havana.
45. City of Merida (No. 2).
46. Newbern.
47. City of Chester.*
48. City of Panama.*
49. Geo. W. Elder.
50. Saratoga.*
51. No. 172 (J. Roach and Son).*
52. No. 176 (J. Roach and Son).*

PACIFIC.

53. City of Peking.*
54. City of Tokio.*
55. City of New York.*
56. City of Sydney.*
57. Colima.*
58. Granada.*

[Those marked with a star (*) are fast. All have been built since 1868.]

No. 618.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, May 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Captain Milinković, Austrian Staff-Officer attached to the Consulate-General of this town, left yesterday for Novi-Bazar on a mission connected with the new frontiers of Servia and Montenegro. He goes by way of Visegrad and will return viâ Stevlje and Cainica, taking in fact the same route as I followed on my late journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 619.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 26, 1878.*

ADA KALEH evacuated by Turks, in conformity with Treaty of San Stefano, was occupied by Austrian troops yesterday.

No. 620.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 506.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 26, 1878.*

TURKS having refused to evacuate Püfji Keui Russians have turned it and advanced on Pyr. (?)

Baker Pasha tells me that had it not been for the tact and restraint shown by the Turkish Generals a collision was imminent. From the language attributed to Skobelew and other Russian Generals, it is to be feared that they are endeavouring to provoke hostilities and force the hands of the Russian Government, unless most stringent orders are sent to them from Petersburgh to stop further advance, (?) as the Turks cannot abandon their only lines of defence, and may be in the end compelled to resist. Russians are still driving out from the villages around Constantinople the Mussulmans, who come to the city in great numbers entirely destitute.

No. 621.

Mr Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 509. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 26, 1878.*

PRIME MINISTER informs me that the recent attempt to proclaim Murad has caused much alarm to the Sultan, who expressed a wish that Mahmoud Pasha Damat, in whose devotion to his person he has great confidence, should be among his Ministers. His Highness thought it better to comply with His Majesty's desire under present circumstances, and Mahmoud Pasha Damat has been named Minister of War; but his Highness assures me that the appointment will not in any way affect the policy of the Government.

No. 622.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 535. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 9, 1878.*

I AM secretly informed that a Russian trading caravan is to start for Khorassan, to which will be attached a Russian Colonel of the Staff and a military topographer, disguised as traders, for the purpose of making a survey of the roads.

My informant gave no further details, nor did he mention from whence the caravan would start, or the route it was to take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 623.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 536. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 11, 1878.*

IT is reported to me from a private source that General Tchernaieff, who was reported to have left St. Petersburgh for Tiflis, has been suddenly recalled, and is now here.

His return is said to be connected with some change in the operations contemplated against British India.

I shall endeavour to ascertain further information in regard to General Tchernaieff's movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 624.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 515.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1878.*

ON the receipt this morning of your Lordship's telegram of last night, I immediately wrote a note to Count Schouvaloff (of which I have the honour to annex a copy) informing him, by your Lordship's instructions, that the Russian troops were advancing on Constantinople and producing great alarm in that capital.

I added that there was a serious danger of a collision unless orders were immediately given to restrain them.

Count Schouvaloff, on the point of starting for England, sent me a hurried note, of which a copy is inclosed, denying the intelligence reported that the Russian troops were advancing on Constantinople, and stating that he could not understand what could have caused the panic.

He requested me to send you the foregoing information.

A few hours after his departure I received a private note from M. de Giers, copy of which I have the honour to annex, referring to the same subject, and inclosing to me a copy of the telegram, herewith annexed, which had been received from Prince Labanoff at Constantinople.

In this telegram Prince Labanoff states that there had been on the 16th and 17th instant a panic at Constantinople in the expectation of a *coup de main* by the Russians on Constantinople.

The Palace, the Porte, and the Diplomatic Body were all equally alarmed. Movements of Turkish troops had taken place during the night. The British residents had requested Mr. Layard to call up some English ships for their protection. The Prince concludes by saying that he had much trouble in refuting these reports, the origin of which he ignored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 624.

Lord A. Loftus to Count Schouvaloff.

St. Pétersbourg, le 5/17 Mai, 1878.

Mon cher Comte,

JE viens à l'instant de recevoir un télégramme de Lord Salisbury qui me prie de vous informer que les troupes Russes avancent sur Constantinople, et, par conséquent, produisent une grande alarme.

Il y a un danger sérieux qu'une collision ait lieu à moins que les ordres soient donnés immédiatement pour les restreindre.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 624.

Count Schouvaloff to Lord A. Loftus.

Mon cher Collègue,

LA nouvelle est fausse. Nous n'avançons pas sur Constantinople, et ne comprenons pas ce qui a pu donner lieu à cette panique.

Veuillez en informer Lord Salisbury.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 624.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

Le 18 Mai, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Comte Schouvaloff vient de me communiquer la lettre de votre Excellence de ce matin au sujet du prétendu mouvement de nos troupes sur la ville de Constantinople.

Je ne saurais mieux y répondre qu'en vous transmettant ci-joint le télégramme reçu hier au soir du Prince Lobanow au même sujet. Notre Ambassadeur a eu parfaitement raison de démentir le bruit absurde qui a causé une si grande panique dans la capitale Turque, et que je ne puis attribuer qu'à la malveillance de ceux qui cherchent à brouiller les cartes.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 624.

Prince Lobanow to Prince Gortchakow.

Péra, le 5/17 Mai, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

HIER et aujourd'hui panique à Constantinople; on s'attendait pour demain à un coup de main de notre part sur la capitale de Palais. La Porte et le Corps Diplomatique en ont été émus. Des mouvements de troupes Turques ont même eu lieu dans la nuit. Les nationaux Anglais de leur côté ont demandé à Layard faire venir à Constantinople quelques bâtiments Anglais pour leur sécurité. J'ai eu de la peine à démentir ce bruit, dont j'ignore l'origine.

No. 625.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.

(No. 549.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a Memorandum by Mr. Michell, containing military intelligence.

I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the order of the Minister of War of May 3/15, 1878, prescribing the formation of eight battalions of infantry reserves for the reinforcement of the Turkestan military district.

The armaments and preparations for war are being carried on here with great

activity, and I am informed that a large quantity of arms have been lately purchased in America.

It is also intended, I am told, to concentrate a large force towards the south-western frontier as a precautionary measure against Austria. This force has been stated to me at 300,000 men, and that the command is to be given to the Cesarewitch. I cannot, however, guarantee the exactness of this information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—I also annex a Memorandum by Mr. Michell, stating that the battalion of instruction has been formed into a regiment of 4,000 men, and is to be stationed in the military district of St. Petersburgh.

A. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 625.

Memorandum.

SEVEN additional divisions of infantry reserves (12 battalions to each division) have been ordered to be raised, as also 7 brigades of artillery (4 batteries to each brigade). These forces are to be organized in the military districts of Vilna and Warsaw, and although orders have been issued for their being mustered in the space of one month, it is supposed that two months at least will elapse before the organization of these troops will be completed.

By order of the Minister of War, dated 22nd April/4th May, 1878, 28 regiments of reserves are to be formed out of the battalions of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Divisions of infantry reserves; these new regiments are to be composed of 3 battalions each.

The regiments are to be numbered in the consecutive order observed throughout all the reserve divisions, viz.:—

Regiments of the 5th Division to be numbered	..	..	..	17, 18, 19, 20
,, 6th ,,	..	..	..	21, 22, 23, 24
,, 7th ,,	..	..	..	25, 26, 27, 28
,, 8th ,,	..	..	..	29, 30, 31, 32
,, 9th ,,	..	..	..	33, 34, 35, 36
,, 10th ,,	..	..	..	37, 38, 39, 40
,, 11th ,,	..	..	..	41, 42, 43, 44

By another order of the Minister of War, dated May 3/15, 1878, 8 battalions of infantry reserves are to be formed for the reinforcement of the Russian troops of the Turkestan military district. These reserve battalions are to be numbered respectively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The men are drawn from Western Siberia and the Province of Turkestan.

Out of the hitherto existing Bashkir Division of cavalry, consisting of 2 squadrons, by order of the Minister of War a regiment of Baskir cavalry is to be formed, which will consist of a complement of 4 squadrons for active service, and 1 reserve squadron. The head-quarters of this cavalry force are at Orenburg.

It is reported that the 1st Division of Cavalry of the Guards are to proceed to Reval after the spring parade. A camp is said to be in course of preparation for them near Reval.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL, *Consul.*

St. Petersburgh, May 21, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 625.

Memorandum.

THE battalion of instruction has been formed into a regiment of 4,000 men. The battalion is stationed in the military district of St. Petersburgh.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL, *Consul.*

St. Petersburgh, May 10/15, 1878.

No. 626.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 27.*)

(No. 550.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.*

I AM informed that the frigates "Pogarski" and "Petropavlosk," and the clipper "Djigit," have left Cronstadt. Their destination is not known, but it is supposed that they are bound for the Pacific.

The "Sevastopol," 28-gun frigate, is reported ready for sea, and will also proceed to join the Pacific squadron.

According to the "Golo" of May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878, the command of the defence of Cronstadt will be given to Admiral Kozakevitch.

Admiral Butakoff and Vice-Admiral Crown, as chief of the staff, will be appointed to the command of Sweaborg.

The Helsenfors "Dagblad" reports that it is intended to increase the naval force stationed at Helsenfors to a full naval equipage or crew, consisting of four companies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—I have the honour to annex a Memorandum by Mr. Michell, reporting that the Russian Ministry of Marine has bought 42 Krupp breech-loading (rifled) mortars, destined for the forts of Cronstadt; also a list of the torpedo-boats ordered in the course of last autumn and this year, which are now ready for service.

A. L.

Inclosure in No. 626.

Memorandum.

I AM informed from a trustworthy source that the Russian Ministry of Marine has bought, through the medium of the German Government, 42 Krupp breech-loading mortars (rifled) of 6 in. and 8 in. These mortars are destined for the Cronstadt forts, and will be delivered at Cronstadt in about a fortnight.

The Russian naval authorities have also purchased, for the use of Russian war-ships, 25 Palmkrantz mitrailleuses at Stockholm, calibre of barrels 1 in. An additional quantity of these mitrailleuses will be purchased in the event of a war.

The following torpedo-boats, ordered in the course of last autumn and this year, and constructed at and near St. Petersburgh, are now ready for service:—

	Horse-power.	Length.	Breadth.	Draught.	
				Fore.	Aft.
		Ft. in.	Ft. in.	Ft. in.	Ft. in.
Vsryv	840	141 6	16 0	7 0	10 0
Vosshei	220	75 0	8 6	4 0	4 0
Veroun					
Aist					
Akula					
Gighire	220	71 4	9 10	3 3	3 3
Albatros					
Buran					
Voron					
Beluga					
Serdar					
Drozd					
Jastreb					
Gorlitza					
Strelok	220	71 4	9 10	3 3	3 3
Strauss					
Jagwal					
Sokol					
Wiatel					
Gulub					

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL, *Consul.*

St. Petersburgh, May $\frac{19}{31}$, 1878.

No. 627.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 27.*)

(No. 552.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.*

I AM informed that seventy-eight Russian sailors and four Russian officers were secretly sent from Cronstadt to Riga (viâ Oranienbaum) on the $\frac{14}{26}$ May. On their arrival at Riga they embarked at once on board of a steamer bound for Hamburgh, from whence they were to proceed to America.

Fifty heavy cases, taken from the arsenal of St. Petersburgh, and supposed to contain arms, were also sent to Riga with the officers and men. The sailors left Cronstadt with the greatest secrecy, disguised as peasants, and they were so dressed as to lead the public to suppose that they were workmen returning to their villages.

Mr. Michell, from whom I have received this information, hopes to obtain the name of the steamer on which the men embarked at Riga, and the names of the chief officers in command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 628.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 27.*)

(No. 553.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the note which, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 313 of the 11th instant, I have addressed to M. de Giers, bringing to the notice of the Imperial Government the treatment to which Captain Gill and Mr. Ross were subjected by the Russian authorities at Giurgevo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 628.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseil Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, May 20, 1878.*

IN compliance with instructions which I have received from the Marquis of Salisbury, I have to communicate to your Excellency the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been addressed to his Lordship by Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest, inclosing a report from Captain Gill and Mr. Ross, complaining of the treatment to which they were subjected by the Russian authorities at Giurgevo.

I have been instructed to bring this matter to the notice of the Imperial Government, and to request that your Excellency will be so good as to cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances as narrated by Captain Gill and Mr. Ross.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 629.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 27.*)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.*

I HAD an interview with M. de Giers to-day, and in thanking his Excellency for his note inclosing copy of a telegram from Prince Labanoff referring to the panic produced at Constantinople by the sudden dislocation and advance of the Russian troops, I observed that it was unfortunate that at a moment when the two Governments were endeavouring to bring about an understanding on Eastern affairs, the

Russian military Commanders should thus risk the success of their endeavours by a movement which might have produced the most serious consequences.

M. de Giers replied that he had read the explanation given by General Todleben for this dislocation, which was necessitated by sanitary conditions, and that it had produced unnecessary alarm.

I observed to his Excellency that if sanitary motives had alone dictated this movement, it would have been more prudent to have retired from, rather than to have advanced two miles nearer to the capital. I could not but think that the hygienic motives alleged were merely a pretext to cover an important strategic movement.

I called his Excellency's attention likewise, as I had done on a previous occasion, to the serious danger to the interest of peace by the persistent demands of General Todleben for the evacuation of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, thus seeking to enforce the clauses of a Treaty termed Preliminaries, the conditions of which Russia had not herself fulfilled, and which had not yet acquired a legal validity by the assent of the European Powers.

These persistent demands of General Todleben were inconsistent with the endeavours of the Imperial Government to bring about an amicable understanding in respect to the Treaty of San Stefano, and were attended with great danger to the maintenance of peace.

M. de Giers replied that although it was true that General Todleben had pressed these demands on the Porte, still there was no intention to resort to coercive measures. He gave me to understand, however, that the Imperial troops occupied such dominant positions both in regard to Shumla and Varna, as would insure to them the occupation of those fortresses, if necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 630.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 558.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.

I INQUIRED to-day from M. de Giers whether there was any foundation for a report which had reached me of negotiations for an exchange of territory between Russia and Persia.

His Excellency said there was no question of an exchange of territory as between Russia and Persia. The circumstances of the case were as follows:—

At the commencement of the war with Turkey, it was of considerable importance to Russia that Persia should not take part in it, as any interference on her part might have produced agitation in the frontier provinces of Russia which had formerly been under Persian rule.

The Imperial Government, he said, had therefore urged on Persia to remain quiet, promising, I have no doubt, some compensation at the close of the war.

It is now felt, he continued, that more territory had been claimed from Turkey in Asia by the Treaty of San Stefano than is deemed necessary or even useful for Russian interests, and that consequently concessions may be made in this quarter.

England and Russia have for some years past acted as mediators in regard to the Turco-Persian boundary, and one of the disputed points on which no agreement could be brought about between Turkey and Persia referred to a small district called Khotur, which had been at some previous date wrongfully taken from Persia and annexed by Turkey.

It was thought, therefore, that the present would be a favourable moment, in conjunction with England, to bring this vexed question to a settlement, and that Khotur should be restored to Persia.

His Excellency said that Count Schouvaloff is instructed to bring this question before your Lordship, and that he has been supplied with a Memorandum giving the detailed circumstances of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 631.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 559.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article in translation by Mr. Michell, from the "Exchange Gazette," advocating a peaceful solution of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 631.

Substance of Article in the "Exchange Gazette."

(Translation.)

THE "Exchange Gazette" having been reproached by the "Moscow Gazette" with a want of patriotism at the present crisis, replies to this charge in the following leading article, which appeared in its issue of the 7th May, 1878. The "Exchange Gazette" has been a persistent advocate for a peaceful solution of the Eastern question, ever since the outbreak of hostilities in Servia. In this respect it formed a solitary exception to all the organs of the Russian press.

"We are of opinion that a question bearing general European signification, and affecting general European interests, should be settled by general European agreement, and not by the will of one Power, and in the event of international disputes arising, we consider that concessions and the preservation of peace with other Powers, are preferable to a senseless obduracy and a determination at all hazards to maintain one-sided views, and we object to the creation of enemies and ill-wishes with whom sooner or later a heavy reckoning must take place.

"It is only by moderation, concession, and an amicable bearing in regard to others, that a policy can be founded which shall be both durable and beneficial; a policy of hectoring and rebuffs has always terminated in more harm to the victor than to the vanquished. History presents several striking examples of this of a quite recent date.

"Both the English and French, up to the present time, have not ceased to regret the Crimean campaign, although it terminated triumphantly in their favour. Germany for a long time yet will have to repent the seizure of Alsace and Lorraine, and sooner or later she will have to pay dearly for it.

"In the present Eastern collision, Russia had no special interests at stake which were either threatened or violated by anybody. Not a single Russian was in jeopardy; not one armed foreign soldier placed his foot on Russian soil. It was only time, it was only the united exertions of the whole of Europe that could permanently ameliorate the position of the Balkan Christians, and create for them better conditions for a free and independent existence. It was only misunderstandings, only a general mistrust, that could have produced an armed collision, and is it possible to desire, as an honest patriot, that the war not only should not terminate, but should widen the sphere of its operations, arresting the peaceful course of life, multiplying pauperism and destitution in all its forms, spreading disease and sickness, and heaping up the piles of slain.

"These humanitarian sentiments we dedicate to the "Moscow Gazette," and we exult in the fact that from the very commencement of the hostile rupture with Turkey, we never allowed one word to escape us in favour of war, but always remained on the side of peace and an amicable settlement."

No. 632.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 33. Consular.) *Therapia, May 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report I have received from Dr. Dickson, containing a summary of the state of public health in Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 632.

Dr. Dickson to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, May 9, 1878.

Sir,

SINCE writing my report of the 18th ultimo, on the state of public health in Constantinople, more doctors have fallen victims to their work among the refugees. Dr. Abbes and Dr. Bolinski have been smitten with typhus, Dr. Skikales has had an attack of dysentery, and Dr. Calvazzi has caught the itch. Besides these several other medical practitioners and sisters of mercy have also fallen ill. This fact, combined with the Easter holidays, has retarded my obtaining the information which I now embody in this report to your Excellency.

The general condition of the refugees remains the same, but the mortality among them has a little diminished, and the amount of sickness not increased. A difficulty, however, has arisen with regard to housing them, for many of the owners of the houses occupied by the refugees now claim them back again, and the authorities are at a loss where to find other abodes to replace them. A thousand huts are in course of construction upon the Alem Dagh in Asia. Tents and huts have, moreover, been erected at Perner Baloché to shelter the 2,500 persons cleared out of St. Sofia, and those are now comfortably lodged and fed every day, thanks to the exertions of the International Committee and Compassionate Fund. The food, however, of the other refugees is in many instances insufficient and of bad quality.

On the 4th instant there were no less than 31,000 of these wretched creatures lodged in the public buildings in Stamboul, and the overcrowding, filth, and amount of sickness among them were great, and were giving a daily death-rate of 57. The hospital established for them in the Fundy Kouak is, according to Dr. Stikulis, in a horrible state, and ought to be cleared at once. Its praises, however, the activity, intelligence, and good will displayed by Rashed Pasha, the new president of the Refugee Committee. The number of refugees along the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus amounts to 27,000, and their death-rate is 32 per diem. There were, on the 4th, 77 cases of typhus, 63 of typhoid, 12 of small-pox, 94 of dysentery, and 276 of ordinary maladies among them.

In Pera and its dependencies (the district) out of 7,100 only 166 were ill.

Dr. Stekalis reckons at 2,000 the deaths which have occurred since January amongst the 100,000 spread over this capital.

During the month of April 8,000 refugees quitted Constantinople of their own accord, and many others have been sent away from the capital, chiefly to Adrianople; but I hear that the latter have all come back again. Indeed, it could not be otherwise, for these wretched people have no longer any homes left to them, and the means are wanting to enable them to settle down again on their lands and provide for their wants until the produce of the soil enables them to earn an independent living. The animosity, moreover, entertained against them by the Christian Bulgarians prevents all hope of return to their former abodes, and compels them to stay here, where they are a nuisance, and a source of danger and expense to the inhabitants. Their indolent habits unfit them for work in this capital, while their poverty, and their over-crowded and filthy state render them an easy prey to a host of destructive maladies.

Their lot is truly a sad one, for whether sent into the provinces to perish from hunger or left here to die of disease, they will equally be swept away in a few years, leaving no trace but the record of history to mark their advent to Constantinople.

The Porte has informed the Board of Health that the water supplied to the capital from the Bends has become very foul. As it is necessary that means should be taken

to purify it it invokes the aid of the Board to co-operate in obtaining this desirable result.

The Porte has, moreover, applied for the Dardanelles Lazaret to house in it wounded and sick soldiers. The request has been granted on condition that any damage done to it will be repaired by the Government, and that should an epidemic break out the Lazaret should be handed back to the Health Department.

During the last two months bovine typhus has continued to exist in the neighbourhood of Constantinople. It existed also at Widdin, Trebizond, Samsoun, Broussa, Adana, Cavalla, Pasha Urnieu, near Salonica, and in the Island of Tenedos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 633.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 19. Consular.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, May 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch, Consular, No. 8 of the 15th March, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it has been finally decided, with a view to reduce the amount of caïmés in circulation, to impose the following taxes, the amount realized thereby to be burnt weekly:—

	Paras.
On every horse-load of fire-wood brought to market	10
On every cart-load of ditto	100
On every horse-load of charcoal	80
On every horse-load of stone	10

The whole arrangement appears to me defectuous, and based on false principles. Not only will these imposts entail considerable expense in their collection but they will also offer a most advantageous field for peculation and fraud, and to say that half the amount paid by the peasants will be destroyed is a very liberal estimate. Then, as usual in Turkey, the whole burden will fall, directly at least, on the poor, and lastly the caïmé currency will not acquire any additional credit either here or in the European money market.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 634.

Consul Churchill to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord, *Resht, May 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of my despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Teheran on the situation of affairs in this province and in the Caspian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HY. A. CHURCHILL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 634.

Consul Churchill to Mr. R. Thomson.

Resht, May 1, 1878.

Sir,

THE Zia-ul-Mulk, who had received permission some time back to proceed to Ceswein to meet His Majesty the Shah, returned to his post on Sunday the 28th ultimo. His Excellency was accompanied by Nusret-ullah Khan, of Talysh, who had been in the capital for the last eight months trying to settle his position as Governor of Talysh on a more satisfactory footing than heretofore. I learn from good authority that he has disbursed 20,000 tomans with a view to propitiate those in power without having succeeded in his efforts. Nusret-ullah Khan, as I have already had occasion to observe, is the scion of an ancient feudatory family of the mountainous region

contiguous to the Russian frontier of Lenkoran. He is as ambitious as he is active and intelligent; he is moreover anti-Russian, but who can say how soon his sentiments may change through the intrigues of persons who, like the Mustowfee Mirza Abd-ul-Wahab, are devoted, body and soul, to the interests of Russia. I learn with much pleasure that the Zia-ul-Mulk has received stringent instructions from the Shah to send Mirza Abd-ul-Wahab away from Resht. If this report be true, I feel sure the province will be benefited by the removal of this individual, for many complaints are made of his rapacity.

I am sorry to have to report the bad prospects of the silk crop. Already signs of failure have manifested themselves. The greater part of the silkworm-eggs imported from Khorassan have turned out spurious, and from my own observations made with the microscope last year, I foretold the worthless nature of the eggs produced in Ghilan. The crop this year will, it is feared, be considerably inferior to the last, which was the worst that Ghilan had ever seen.

I learn from the Zia-ul-Mulk that owing to the unsettled state of the affairs in Europe, His Majesty has determined to return from his second tour through Feangistan in three months by the Caspian. Orders have been given to prepare a country house in the close neighbourhood of Resht for His Majesty, and some of the inmates of the Royal Enderoon are expected here from Tehran, in the course of two months, to await the Shah's return.

I am glad to be able to report that, thanks to the energetic measures taken by the Governor, under the guidance of Dr. Kasbonsky—great improvements have been effected in the drainage of the town, and as no regular cases of plague have manifested themselves for some time past, it is hoped that Resht and its neighbourhood will be spared this year from the ravages of this disease. No modifications have yet, to my knowledge, been made in the quarantine regulations adopted by the Russian Government in the Russian ports of the Caspian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. A. CHURCHILL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 634.

Consul Churchill to Mr. R. Thomson.

(Secret and Confidential.)

Resht, May 2, 1878.

Sir,

FROM the information that I have been able to gather from natives of Bakou, through the Moushire of the Consulate, no movement of any kind has been observed of late on the shores of the Caspian, either at Bakou or at Krasnovodsk, the two most important military posts in this inland sea. The Russian ports of the Caspian are, without exception, denuded of troops. The garrisons everywhere, even that of Krasnovodsk, have been utilized to swell the forces of the Grand Duke Michael in Armenia. The inhabitants of Shirvan and Daghistan are said to be anxiously awaiting the results of the misunderstanding between England and Russia. In a war with Russia we would undoubtedly carry with us the sympathies, if not the active co-operation, of the whole of the Mussulmans of the Caucasus and Turkistan.

In this province the dread of Russia is manifest, but the sympathies of the people are with England; I cannot say as much with regard to the governing class. The Zia-ul-Mulk and the Mustowfee, Mirza Abd-ul-Wahab, his Mentor, are both imbued with the paramount might of Russia, and how to the power that is.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. A. CHURCHILL.

No. 635.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Galatz, May 9, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 32, Political, of the 6th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that in the evening of the 5th instant the gunboat "Fulgeud" arrived; she anchored close to the "Bellior," and left the next day, returning up the Danube. It seems probable that she took the torpedoes with her.

On the night of the 7th May about 750 men of the Russian reserves arrived by the Bendar-Galatz Railway; during the 8th a similar number arrived, and the first-mentioned detachment left by the Bucharest line. Again to-day about 800 more have arrived, and the others gone forward in the same direction. Arrangements seem to have been made for passing on a battalion a-day in this manner.

There have been further arrivals of heavy guns by the Bucharest line, and there are now 25 parked near the railway stations.

The Russian steamer "Nigola" left on the 8th May ostensibly for San Stefano, and the "Hoper" on the same day for Sulina, at which latter place I hear fresh batteries are being thrown up by the Russians; they both carry guns and ammunition of different calibres, some of the ammunition being very heavy.

On the morning of the 7th instant preparations were made for the crossing of troops by the bridge at Ibraila; in the evening the advanced guard of cavalry crossed to Ibraila, and to-day Mr. Vice-Consul Brown reports that during the 8th instant cavalry, infantry, and artillery of General Zimmermann's corps were coming over in detachments; he does not give me any numbers. From other sources I find it is difficult to make any estimate, as they pass at all hours, and unhappily I am at this moment deprived of the services of one of my special employés, whose assistance has been asked for in a quarter which I could not refuse.

There were apparently at Ibraila on the 7th instant about 500 Russian infantry and 4 batteries of light field artillery; on that day the infantry with 4 guns marched through the town and a parade was held; it is suggested that this may have been done in consequence of the Garde Civile having been called under arms for exercise by an alarm during the previous night, and in consequence of the disturbances which arose between the Roumanians and Russians both at Ibraila and Galatz during the Easter holidays.

The movements of troops are very difficult to check; detachments of 500 to 1,000 men leave one place and are lost sight of for a time, then reappear at some short distance, and as often as not return to the place they started from. A detachment of Cossacks left Ibraila ostensibly for Galatz on the morning of the 8th instant: of this I had information through a private source; they have not come to Galatz, and up to 6 P.M. this evening I can find no trace of them in the neighbourhood; it is quite possible that they are a part of the regiment that left this on the 1st May. It would appear as if an attempt were being made to convey an exaggerated idea of the force by adopting the tactics of a theatrical manager.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 636.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Adrianople, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Vassa Effendi arrived here the day before yesterday with one of his Russian colleagues, and after conferring with Baron Delingshausen, the two Commissioners returned to Philippopolis this morning.

It is understood that the Turco-Russian Commission has not, so far, succeeded in bringing about a pacification of the Rhodope districts, the insurgents declaring that so long as the Port is, as at present, necessarily powerless to afford them valid protection, they must hold themselves free to disobey its injunctions, and continue to defend their lives and property and the honour of their families. It has not transpired what further steps have been resolved upon during Vassa Effendi's interview with the Russian Governor-General in consequence of this attitude of the insurgents.

Vassa Effendi told me that no certain information has yet been obtained as to the extent and importance of the movement, the Turkish officers sent from Philippopolis to the insurgent districts for that purpose being still absent.

Notice was brought here (Enthia) on the evening of the 9th instant of a concentration of the insurgent forces at the following places in the hills beyond, namely, Mongorey, Palikova, Bradovian, Hisija, Atsion, and Azamout-kioi. A battalion

of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were at once dispatched to that quarter, and yesterday and to-day many fugitive Christian families have been coming in from thence. The insurgents are reported to be within an hour and-a-half of Orta Kioï.

I learn from some Turkish inhabitants of the village of Beulé-ören, Akhlatli, and Karabaghlar, on the head streams of the Fakih-dereh and Velika rivers, in the district of Bourgas, who have arrived here, that communications between those places and the district town, the seaport of Bourgas, which is about twelve hours distant, are interrupted, and that the villagers could only come this way under Bulgarian escort. They also state that there are in the highlands of the Daridereh district, between Kara-ören, Kyr-orman, and Urum-kioï, besides the native inhabitants, 8,000 families of fugitives from the Balkans and the country beyond, besides many disbanded Turkish soldiers. All these people have remained in possession of their arms.

About a month ago, according to these informants, a Pasha came from Constantinople, and told the fugitives that they were not to stir from where they were till he came back. The Daridereh district is surrounded by a cordon of Russian soldiers, ostensibly to protect the inhabitants against the Bulgarians. The Russians have for a month past been distributing rations to the fugitives there. The Commandant of Bourgas made a reconnaissance in that quarter about a week ago, and sent a verbal message through the people of Ernes-kioï to the inhabitants of Beulé-ören, Aklatli, and Karabaghlar, ordering them all to retire to Tchinghiané-Iskelessi, a place of embarkation on the south side of the inlet of Bourgas. It was with reference to this informal summons that the villagers came here, access to Bourgas being cut off. Although these people represent the state of things in those parts as tranquil, there is enough on their own showing to point to a different conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 637.

Consul Carruthers to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Taganrog, May 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to the subject of my despatch of the 14th instant, No. 3, Political, I have now the honour to transmit a copy of the announcement therein mentioned, issued with a view of obtaining funds for forming a volunteer fleet of cruizers. This announcement is published in the "Taganrog News," and printed at the Chancellerié of the town Governor.

There is no cessation in the movement of troops in these parts. Some regiments of Kuban Cossacks have been passing by rail to the northward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

Inclosure in No. 637.

Extract from the "Taganrog News."

(Translation.)

FROM the Moscow Head Committee, established under the august patronage of His Imperial Highness the Césarévich, to collect contributions for the purpose of forming a volunteer fleet.

The Almighty sends Russia new trials. Our irreconcilable enemy threatens us with war. Fellow countrymen! shall we suffer him to demolish the fruits of our victories, and oblige us to again work out the freedom of our brethren?

Our foe is powerful on the seas, and the number and magnitude of his maritime strength greatly exceeds ours. But there is a possibility of dealing him a severe blow even at sea. Who is not aware that the whole interest of our enemy is united with profit and thrift? He possesses an immense commercial fleet. Thirty thousand of his vessels cover every ocean. That is where the blow should be aimed! At the time our seas will be shut up by our enemy, and as during the Crimean War, defenceless habitations on our coasts burnt and plundered. This commercial fleet, even on the vast ocean, will be exposed in its turn to the miseries of warfare.

For this purpose we require swift and strong vessels, which, unexpectedly appearing on the ocean, will threaten our foe. The last war covered Russian mariners with glory, by their combating formidable iron-clads with crazy craft, and coming off victorious in the unequal conflicts.

Grant them *bond fide* maritime vessels, send them on the ocean to capture the enemy's commercial fleet, and our foe will repent of his self-reliance.

Children of our native soil, you have risen as one man every time danger has threatened our Holy mother Russia. You will likewise on this occasion with unity of soul respond to her call, and construct a volunteer fleet which will again demonstrate to the world what Russians are capable of doing when they rise to guard the honour of their native land.

But time will not abide delay. Action must be speedy. Wish for peace, prepare for war.

Contributions are accepted at the Committee formed under presidency of the town Governor; at all the public courts, and at the town administration.

No. 638.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying despatch, addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall at Belgrade, on the subject of the reported rumours of disturbances between the Servians and Arnauts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 638.

Vice-Consul Marshall to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Belgrade, May 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in the course of a conversation I had yesterday with M. Catargi, the Roumanian Agent, the latter told me that Prince Milan has assured him there was not a word of truth in the reports recently published in some of our newspapers concerning Servo-Arnaut combats on the line of demarcation or disturbances in the lately-occupied portion of old Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MARSHALL.

No. 639.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 27.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 16 Mai, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, pour votre information, copie d'une notice relative à l'attitude du Monténégro.

Des renseignements ultérieurs parvenus à la Sublime Porte nous ont appris, en outre, que 6,000 réfugiés Herzégoviniens ont été enrôlés, armés et équipés par la Principauté.

Ces dispositions témoignent de l'intention bien arrêtée du Monténégro de s'emparer des localités qui restent dans la possession des autorités Impériales, et qu'à l'époque des négociations de paix on croyait être tombées par le sort des armes entre les mains des Monténégrins.

Or, la Sublime Porte ne saurait rester indifférente en présence d'un état de choses aussi irrégulier qu'insoutenable. D'ailleurs, les Préliminaires de Paix signés à San Stefano stipulent clairement que les nouvelles frontières de la Principauté, définies en traits généraux, doivent être définitivement arrêtées par une Commission Européenne.

Je me suis donc adressé au Gouvernement Impérial de Russie par l'entremise de

son Ambassade à Constantinople pour le prier de rappeler le Prince Nicolas à une attitude plus correcte et plus en harmonie avec le rétablissement de la paix.

Je n'en crois pas moins devoir vous prier, M. l'Ambassadeur, de signaler, de votre côté, tous ces faits à l'attention du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 639.

Notice.

LE Prince de Monténégro a fait assurer tant le Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Scutari que les autorités Ottomanes que, dans le cas d'une guerre entre la Russie et l'Angleterre, il observerait une neutralité absolue en vue de désintéresser cette dernière Puissance.

La sincérité de cette déclaration est caractérisée par le fait de la convocation à Cettigné de tous les chefs Monténégrins et de quelques chefs de tribus d'Albanie alliées, ainsi que par celui de l'ordre donné à toute la population Monténégrine de se tenir prête à la reprise immédiate des hostilités. En outre, à la population Slave en dehors des confins Monténégrins l'appel est adressé de s'insurger. Des émissaires ont été dirigés aussi nouvellement sur la Mirditie.

Ces faits paraissent en rapport avec la mesure prise en même temps du renvoi dans leurs foyers de tous les réfugiés de l'Herzégovine supérieure, y compris le district de Bilek, auxquels le Prince fait distribuer les vivres, outils et semences nécessaires, ainsi que des secours en argent dans la proportion d'un florin par tête. Ces réfugiés seraient destinés principalement à occuper les districts adjugés au Monténégro par le Traité de San Stefano, mais ne se trouvant pas encore au pouvoir des troupes Princières.

Le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois dans les circonstances données a jugé à propos de procéder à la fortification de Cattaro.

Constantinople, le 13 *Mai*, 1878.

No. 640.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 27.)

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Mai*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Livre Bleu récemment déposé au Parlement Britannique contient une Circulaire adressée par le Cabinet d'Athènes aux Grandes Puissances le $\frac{14}{26}$ Février et sur laquelle je crois nécessaire d'appeler votre attention.

A l'occasion du désir exprimé par la Grèce d'être représentée au sein du Congrès projeté, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce se livre à des appréciations qui, soit pour le fond, soit pour la forme, ne sauraient être acceptées par la Sublime Porte.

Nous ne saurions, d'abord, admettre, et nous sommes convaincus que les Grandes Puissances n'admettront pas elles-mêmes, que le Gouvernement d'Athènes s'attribue le protectorat des populations Ottomanes de race Grecque et s'immisce sous ce prétexte dans les affaires intérieures de l'Empire.

Nous ne saurions davantage entendre la Grèce faire l'apologie des troubles qui ont désolé le Vilayet de Janina et dont on ne doit pas à juste titre, ainsi que nous l'avons plus d'une fois démontré, faire retomber la responsabilité sur le Gouvernement Impérial.

En faisant justice de ces velléités et de ces tendances, vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, relever en même temps les formes de langage employées par M. Délyanni dans sa circulaire précitée à l'égard du Gouvernement Impérial et qui ne sont nullement justifiées.

Je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien donner lecture de cette dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de l'Angleterre, et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 641.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 25 *Mai*, 1878.

VOTRE Excellence doit avoir remarqué que la Circulaire de Lord Salisbury, en date du 1er Avril dernier, n'a fait aucune mention et aucune observation au sujet de l'extension projetée du Monténégro, et de la cession à la Servie de certaines localités qui pourraient gêner nos communications avec la Bosnie. Ces deux points de la plus haute importance pour l'existence de l'Empire comme puissance Européenne doivent avoir attiré la vigilante attention de sa Seigneurie, et c'est pour cela que je désire savoir le motif réel du silence significatif gardé à ce sujet.

Je prie, par conséquent, votre Excellence de vouloir bien me le faire savoir.

No. 642.

Consul Annesley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(Decypher.)
(No. 19. Consular.)

My Lord, *Hamburgh, May* 25, 1878.

I HAVE to report that no confirmation has been obtained of the report from St. Petersburgh. It does not appear that either heavy cases or Russian seamen were shipped by Wednesday's steamer. None of the men have been observed to have the short hair worn in the Russian navy. The report has been renewed of the charter of the Hamburgh steamer "Hammonia" by the Russian Government, but there is nothing new visible abroad. Am receiving reports every day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE ANNESLEY.

No. 643.

Mr. Pender to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

Dear Lord Salisbury, 18, *Arlington Street, London, S.W., May* 23, 1878.

THE inclosed came to hand about 8 o'clock this evening. It may be news to you.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JNO. PENDER.

Inclosure in No. 643.

Mr. Binney to Mr. Pender.

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, Thursday*, 2·3 P.M.

NEARLY two-thirds Sublime Porte destroyed by fire last night, consequently no hopes our concession receiving attention for some days. Will write Ambassador to-day and urge him apply direct to Sultan for special Firman, otherwise see little hopes settlement in face so many continual mishaps.

No. 644.

Sir C. Hartley to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 27.)

(Private.)
My Lord, 26, *Pall Mall, May* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, extracts from a letter I have just received from an authentic source at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. HARTLEY.

Inclosure in No. 644.

Extract from Private Letter.

Sulina, May 17, 1878.

SINCE nomination of General Todleben great changes have taken place. Sulina, Touleha, Mahmoudieh, Kilia, and Ismail, are being fortified very strongly. They started at Sulina on the 7th instant, and the works are getting on. Sulina is to have 12 heavy guns. They have already landed 4 10-ton 8-inch guns, also heavy mortars. The batteries would merely have to protect a boom and torpedoes. Touleha will have 39 guns. . . . . The batteries (at Sulina) are in the same places as the Turkish ones were, terribly strong. The one near the mills is nearly ready. Should Sulina be attacked from the sea, the position of batteries warrants the utter destruction of the Commission houses.

No. 645.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received May 27.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, May 25, 1878.

Sir,

IN transmitting, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the inclosed copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral Hornby in regard to the advisability of removing the fleet under his command from the Gulf of Ismid, after the middle of June, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform his Lordship that the Admiral's instructions leave him at liberty to move from the Gulf of Ismid if he thinks it desirable to do so, either for the safety of the fleet or for the health of the men.

2. Admiral Hornby has taken up his present anchorage on his own responsibility and without specific orders from the Admiralty as to the locality; but looking at the existing state of affairs, my Lords will refrain from authorizing him to move the fleet to Princes Island until they hear from the Secretary of State that that course may be adopted without injuriously affecting the political situation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GIFFARD, *pro Sec.*

Inclosure in No. 645.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

"*Alexandra*," *at Ismid, May* 13, 1878.

Sir,

FROM such information as I have been able to obtain, I am led to believe that it will not be desirable to keep the squadron at this anchorage beyond the middle of next month. Hitherto it has been remarkably healthy, but rain may be expected shortly, and after it has fallen, malaria and fever will probably ensue.

2. I am told that fevers are prevalent during the summer in the neighbourhood of marshes along the whole of this coast, and unfortunately there is no good anchorage on it where there is no marsh.

If their Lordships will look at the chart, they will see that wherever the shore is steep the water is very deep also.

The Princes Islands seem to be the only place where there is high land and a moderate depth of water, and I should recommend the removal of the squadron there next month; but as the Russians are likely to attribute some political significance to such a move, I have the honour to request that you will bring the subject to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and request their Lordships' orders thereupon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 646.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 27.)

Admiralty, May 27, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from the Naval Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 646.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Ismid, May 27, 1878, 11·15 A.M.

AMBASSADOR requests "Helicon" may be left in the Bosphorous to embark the Sultan if necessary, as His Majesty fears a conspiracy against his life. I have sanctioned . . . (two final groups of ciphers illegible).

No. 647.

Letter communicated by Nouriam Effendi, May 27, 1878.

LE Baron Mundy, envoyé en Russie et Roumanie par la Société du Croissant Rouge, avec la mission d'inspecter l'état des malades et blessés militaires Ottomans, dit ce qui suit dans un de ses derniers rapports:—

"Le Prince Drouzkoy, délégué de la Croix Rouge Russe dans la Russie méridionale, a affirmée au Baron que par la baraque d'évacuations, placée sous sa direction à Jassy, ont passé 95,000 malades et blessés. Le Prince lui a fait voir les registres mêmes qui constatent ce chiffre colossal, dont 10,000 soldats de l'armée Ottomane; il faudrait doubler au moins ce chiffre si l'on faisait de relevé général de ceux qui ont été soignés sur les lieux, ou qui ont passé en Russie par d'autres voies."

No. 648.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1878.

THE Shah leaves for Berlin to-morrow instead of Wednesday, as previously fixed.

Prince Gortchakow has had a relapse. It is scarcely possible that he can attend a Congress.

No. 649.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 144.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 27, 1878.

GERMAN Government asked Count Andrassy a few days ago whether the 7th or the 11th of June would suit him for the meeting of the Congress. His Excellency answered that having to attend Delegations the earlier day would not suit him, but that the 11th would. No formal invitation has been received.

No. 650.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 27.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 27, 1878.*
(Secret.)

ROUMANIAN Government have communicated to Russian Representative here a new remonstrance against Russian doings. Efforts have been renewed again to induce this Government to disarm. Minister for Foreign Affairs complains bitterly of the indifference of Austria, which, according to him, gives not the slightest indication of her intentions with regard to Roumania. He added that he saw with regret great reserve of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of Bessarabia.

Prince Charles has just returned, and when I see him I expect to hear similar language.

No. 651.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1878, 11 P.M.*
(Most Secret.)

HORNBY telegraphs that the "Helicon" is wanted to rescue Sultan in case of revolution. Is there any real danger?

No. 652.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 657.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1878.*
Sir,

A TELEGRAM from Admiral Hornby has been communicated to me stating that Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" is required in order to rescue His Majesty the Sultan in the event of a revolution breaking out in Constantinople, and I have to request your Excellency to report to me whether any real danger exists.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 653.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. J. Pender, M.P.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1878.*
Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for your confidential information, that, in a letter received by the Board of Admiralty, Admiral Hornby observes that the line to the Princes Islands, now in course of construction by the Eastern Telegraph Company, should be completed as soon as possible, and each and all of the stations be put under the control and working of trustworthy Englishmen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 654.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 36.) *Tehran, March 5, 1878.*
My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions of the 2nd instant, I inquired of the Persian Minister whether it was true that communications had passed between Persia and Russia with reference to Kotur. He earnestly asserted that, neither in Tehran nor anywhere else had such communications passed; he added that no secret understanding existed between the two Governments for the cession to Russia of

Persian territory on the Caspian, and that in the event of such a proposal being put forward, he felt certain that the Shah would firmly refuse to entertain it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 655.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Tehran, March 13, 1878.*

I HAVE again questioned the Persian Minister respecting the subject of your telegram of the 9th instant, and he perseveres in his statement that no communication of any sort has passed between Russia and Persia, either at Tehran or elsewhere, with reference to Kotur. He says, however, that the Russian Minister at this Court has frequently stated that in the event of Persia continuing quiet and neutral, Russia, in the case of the defeat of the Turks, would not forget Persian interests in the matter of the Turco-Persian Boundary question generally, although no allusion had been made to it. Kotur is, he added, from the Russian point of view the most serious question a tissue between Persia and Turkey; on the other hand Persia considers Zohab of greater importance.

He then again urged the importance of the Turco-Persian Boundary question being submitted to the Congress, so as to prevent future difficulties between the two Mahommedan States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 656.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Tehran, April 2, 1878.*

THE news from London yesterday of the probability of war with Russia has deeply impressed the Persian Government.

I received a visit this morning from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is going with the Shah to Europe. He came with the official who will act as his *locum tenens* during his absence. He says that His Majesty, in spite of the news, is determined to leave for Europe on the 6th, but that, should war be declared before he arrives at the frontier, he would probably be persuaded to come back. Should war break out after he has crossed the Russian frontier, he will go direct to Paris without visiting St. Petersburgh. They both assured me that in the event of war Persia would remain strictly neutral.

I had arranged to leave Tehran to-morrow, on the leave which was granted me last year, and intended to traverse Georgia, preceding the Shah, and not in any way connected with his suite, and at the audience given by His Majesty before leaving Tehran had presented Mr. Ronald Thomson as Chargé d'Affaires, but under the circumstances I have thought it better to defer leaving until I receive your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 657.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 54. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transcribe hereafter, for your Lordship's information, a telegram which I forwarded yesterday evening to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Laz delegates sent this afternoon a telegram thus worded:—

"'Russians invaded Upper Adjara yesterday. Volunteers who were there since some time started for Batoum. When passing through Lower Adjara their arms and munitions were taken by inhabitants, who have risen to oppose Russians. We hear that the Russians at Livanah are preparing to accomplish their object. Hostilities will begin, no doubt, soon. Populations rely on commiseration and humanity of British Government and nation.'"

It is rumoured to-day that the Russians have advanced to, and occupied, without fight, the village of Livanah itself, the Turkish troops stationed there having fallen back on their approach.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 658.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 55. Political.)
Trebizond, May 7, 1878.

My Lord,

HAVING received yesterday evening a telegram from the Armenian community at Livanah, I wired immediately to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as follows:—

"I received the following telegram, dated Batoum, 6th instant, 6 P.M., signed 'Ohanes Piloyan, Delegate of the Christians of Livanah:'—

"'While living in peace with our Mussulman neighbours at Livanah, our beloved country, under Ottoman laws, a few days ago Russian soldiers, under the command of General Komaroff, unexpectedly invaded our town, against the law of nations and in spite of the presence of two Turkish battalions, which, owing to existing peace, offered no resistance.

"'The Russian soldiers and their officers tread under foot the honour of our families; there being no longer any security for life, property, and honour, we are bewildered. If, in the name of Christianism, you want to interfere on our behalf, save us from Russian oppression. Having shut up our houses, abandoned our country, our landed and other property, we proceed with our children and wives to other parts of the Ottoman dominions. It being beyond doubt that similar acts cannot be tolerated by any nation, and in order to protect our honour against the conduct of the Russians, I beg you, in the name of the whole community (Armenian) of which I am the delegate, to bring these facts to the knowledge of your Government through Her Majesty's Ambassador.'"

My colleagues of Austria and France have received this same telegram.

All the Armenians in the district of Livanah live at Artwin, which is the residence of the Governor, and in its immediate vicinity. The telegram refers, therefore, to that town, which is also often called Livanah, and not, as it might be supposed, to the village of the same name.

According to the Armenian Bishop of Trebizond, there are 800 Roman Catholic Armenian, and 150 Gregorian, families.

This Prelate, to whom I applied for further information, knows nothing of the case in question, Artwin being an independent bishopric. He has, however, heard that General Komaroff had been hurt at the want of sympathy shown to the Russian cause by the Armenian Roman Catholic authorities on the occasion of a visit which he paid them a month and a-half ago at Artwin.

Ohanes Piloyan is stated by the Armenian Bishop to be a most respectable man, and really the head of the Roman Catholic Armenian community in the district of Livanah. But as he has been residing since some time at Batoum, I cannot help thinking that his report on occurrences, of which he has not been an eye-witness, is rather exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 659.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 56. Political.)
Trebizond, May 7, 1878.

My Lord,

HAVING received yesterday evening a telegram from the Laz delegates now at Batoum, I wired, without loss of time, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as follows:—

"Laz delegates forwarded following telegram:—

"'Contrary to law of nations, Russians without heeding Turkish authorities and two battalions, invaded Livanah, and similarly occupied village of Bako in Upper Adjara, treading under foot inhabitants of district in order to reach Batoum. Relying on the law of nations and in promises of Porte, we offered no resistance, but course of events shows that Russians will take possession, by all means, of all towns and villages. Confiding in God's help, in Treaties of 1856, and in British protection, all the populations are under arms and occupy different positions to oppose Russian advance. We earnestly beg for the assistance which we hope to receive on land and by sea.'"

On their departure from this, the delegates were most anxious to ascertain the real intentions of Dervish Pasha, it being in his power to baffle the designs of the Russians on Batoum on the sea side.

Their silence on the subject, and a certain anxiety which seems to prevail in their above telegram to me, may be construed as indicating a doubt on the co-operation of the Turkish Commander-in-chief in opposing the Russian advance.

The refusal of Dervish Pasha to allow Tshuruksooli Osman Pasha, and the unsafety which Ali Pasha feels to return to Batoum, together with different rumours which are afloat, tend to confirm this supposition.

We hear from Poti that Loris Melikoff was about to depart for Batoum, with a numerous staff, on board the "Babootchka," to take possession of the place.

The Dragoman of the Russian Consulate at Batoum, who came from thence a few days ago, states that Dervish Pasha himself informed him that he had orders to give up the place as soon as Loris Melikoff arrives.

However, the Governor-General of Trebizond, with whom I spoke to-day on the subject, assured me that no such orders had been transmitted to Dervish Pasha.

The Dragoman further adds that the Russians treat very lightly the movement of the populations in the Lazistan.

It would seem that the Laz begged yesterday the Prime Minister to place themselves in direct communication with him, which was denied to them. They were requested to send their applications through the Vali of Trebizond.

All these noises, which may have more or less foundation, tend to show that things at Batoum are not far from a crisis. If, as it is generally believed, Dervish Pasha has orders to give up Batoum, he intends, perhaps, in order to avoid as far as possible effusion of blood, after the Russians have advanced on the side of Adjara and Livanah, to allow them to enter Batoum itself through Sikindjir or by sea; in that case all resistance on the part of the Laz, so surrounded on all parts, will become impossible.

If Batoum falls now in the hands of the Russians, it will be impossible to obtain its being relinquished by them at a later period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 660.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 57. Political.)
Trebizond, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 7th ultimo the Roman Catholic Armenians of the district of Ispir, which is under the jurisdiction of Erzeroum, had congregated in the village of Mochirgud, on the occasion of the Feast of the Annunciation.

While they were at church an armed band of seventeen Turks surrounded the

building, and finding no opposition on the part of the congregation, despoiled the church of its ornaments, and all the women of their jewels.

They ransacked also the village of Mochirgud, consisting of thirty houses, and loaded the spoils on the backs of the priests and others, compelling them to carry them to a distance of two hours and a-half, where the robbers took charge themselves of the booty.

The total value of the objects stolen is reckoned to amount to 100,000 piastres. The Armenians of the district of Ispir, who were already not in bright circumstances, are now in destitution.

The robbery is said to have been perpetrated by Turks of the village of Hamsheen, headed by a man who has in former years committed with impunity another theft of 10,000 piastres in the same village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 661.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 58. Political.)
Trebizond, May 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 74 of the 17th December last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the perpetrators of the robbery in the Greek monastery of Soumela have been arrested, and nearly the whole of the stolen property recovered.

The culprits (fifteen in number) are in prison waiting their trial, which, it is to be hoped, will be carried on with due activity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 662.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 60. Political.)
Trebizond, May 10, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Turkish mail from Batoum brought yesterday but little news.

It would seem that Dervish Pasha and his twelve battalions have never moved from that place, and that the Russians have made no further advance.

They have placed eight guns in position on a mountain commanding Ardwin, but the whole of their forces in that locality do not appear to amount to more than 2,000 men. However, it is rumoured that this force, as well as that in the Upper Adjara, will be increased to 25,000 each.

Of the Laz there are now under arms 3,000 men at Tsoluksoo, as many in the Upper Adjara, and 4,000 in the Mudj Kal, that is on the road to Livanah.

Volunteers are flocking in every day, but I am assured that unless Osman Pasha is allowed to return to Batoum no general rush to arms can be expected.

His brother, Ali Pasha, who left this week for a short visit to Batoum, is expected to proceed in a few days to Rizeh to recruit volunteers between that place and the Tsuruksoo.

The Russians are sending successive messages for the surrender of Batoum. Dervish Pasha has hitherto evaded their pressing summons, but the Laz cannot ascertain his real intentions for the future.

Loris Melikoff has not made his appearance at Batoum on board the "Bahoutska," as it was reported, from Poti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 663.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 61. Political.)
Trebizond, May 12, 1878.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, having wired to me yesterday to discourage telegrams from Laz such as that sent on the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of my reply to Mr. Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 663.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, May 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, directing me to discourage telegrams from the Laz, such as that sent on the 10th instant.

Even before receiving these instructions, I had taken upon myself, on the receipt of the telegram from the Laz of the 6th instant, to point out to Osman Pasha the uselessness of his countrymen repeating over and over again the same thing in successive messages. Not being myself in correspondence with the Laz, I had begged Osman Pasha to inform them that I would refrain from transmitting the messages which they might send to me in future, unless they contained facts interesting enough to be communicated.

When I received the last telegram for transmission, I did not feel justified to withhold it, it being addressed to Her Majesty.

I have repeated again my warning to Osman Pasha, who assured me that he had written to his countrymen ever since my first observation to him on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 664.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 62. Political.)
Trebizond, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I WIRED a few hours ago as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"8,000 Laz having concentrated in Upper Adjara, Russians retreated two days ago to Poskow. It is rumoured that they are about to evacuate also Livanah, and that there are signs of similar intentions at Tsoloksoo."

I have seen a letter dated 12th instant from the Laz Beys to Osman Pasha, mentioning the retreat of the Russians, during the night, from Adjara, and their intended withdrawal in a few days from Livanah.

The same information reached this from other sources.

A Laz Binbachi, who arrived here yesterday from Batoum, informed Osman Pasha that at Tsoloksoo the Russians had sent back from their advanced lines at Hossoobin all heavy baggage, and folded up their tents.

It being inadmissible that the Russians intend to retire from the Lazistan, especially on the Tsoloksoo side, it must be supposed that their falling back on all points is with a view to allow the present excitement of the population to subside.

However, the Beys attribute the retreat of the Russians from Adjara, where they seem to have been in small force, to the fear of their communications with Poskow being cut off by the 8,000 or 10,000 Laz who have concentrated at Adjara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 665.

Consul Stevens to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 6. Political.)
St. Thomas, West Indies, May 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that much stress has been laid recently by the American press on the mysterious appearance, at or near Philadelphia, of two steamers, which were stated to be closely watched by the American Government, as intended for privateering purposes.

These two steamers arrived here yesterday afternoon, under the names of "Juno" (62 tons), and "Brazils" (132 tons), and are now en route to Pará, where they are to be employed as tugs; they sail from this immediately they complete supplies of coal and water, and have not the least appearance of what they were suspected to be.

The larger vessel of the two broke down on her passage to this, while the smaller one fell short of water, though only seven days out, and reached this with her crew in a perilous position for the want of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 666.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 37. Political.)
Galatz, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44, Political, of the 15th instant, on the subject of an arrangement between the Russian authorities and the Danube Tug and Lighter Company Limited, regarding a tug-boat and one lighter, of which the former retained possession, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Foscolo, senior, called upon me last evening and showed me a copy of a contract which had been signed that day, and under which the vessels above mentioned had been chartered to the Russian Government for three months from the 13th April last, on terms with which Mr. Foscolo professed himself satisfied. He further informed me that he had received the money for the first month, which had already expired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 667.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 28. Political.)
Odessa, May 23, 1878

My Lord,

WITH regard to the subscriptions now being collected throughout Russia for the purchase of cruizers, I have the honour to report that, except among naval men, who are naturally eager to promote what may give them a chance of active and adventurous warfare, the idea is not popular, so far as it has come under my observation.

In each town in South Russia the leading Government officials take the most prominent part in the movement, and this being the case, it is dangerous for others not to seem to join in it.

The few ships already obtained in America have, I am assured, been purchased out of Government money, but it is the wish of Government to make it appear to foreign nations that there is a universal patriotic feeling throughout the country calling for these voluntary subscriptions.

This, with the most anxious wish not to mislead, I feel bound to state is not the case in South Russia.

With the Red Cross Society it was and is different. Sorrow for the misery reported, and not least, indignation against the want of forethought of the Government, caused it to be a truly national movement, liberally responded to by the whole nation in subscriptions and much personal self-denial, labour, and sacrifices on the part of all classes.

The same would doubtless be shown were the country again engaged in war, but the purchase of cruizers calls forth no enthusiasm, is even looked upon with distrust, and may be considered an official but not a national movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 668.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 177. Political.)
Alexandria, May 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the steamer "Madura," towing the sailing transport "Hospodar," with the second detachment of Indian troops on board, reached Suez yesterday, and entered the Canal "all well."

The "Goa," towing the "Duke of Athole," with the first detachment of troops, sailed from Port Said last night, after passing through the Canal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 669.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
Tunis, May 21, 1878.

My Lord,

IN reporting the designs which were attributed to France, I had the honour to mention, in my despatch No. 19 of the 6th instant, that the Bey had been advised to avail himself of the present embarrassments of the Porte to consider as null and void the Sultan's Firman of 1871.

In a recent conversation with the French Representative regarding these designs, he informed me, in a strictly confidential form, that the idea of annulling the Firman originated with General Moustapha-ben-Ishmail, and that, far from countenancing it, he advised him, as the time had now gone by, to desist from an attempt which might lead to embarrassments. Had the Tunisian Government refused to comply with the requisition of the Porte to send a contingent of troops, it would have secured the goodwill and support of Russia, whereas it was much more probable that Russia would now join the other great Powers in compelling the Regency to remain under the suzerainty of the Porte.

It would appear that General Si Moustapha asked M. Roustan whether he should not take advantage of his mission to Paris to seek the intervention of the French Government to obtain the recognition of the independence of the Regency, seeing the inability of the Porte to resist its severance from the rest of the Ottoman dominions, the connection with which had ceased to be useful, since the Porte had lost its power and prestige.

In the presence of the denial of the Bey as to his knowledge of the designs which public rumour attributes to France, it is difficult to say whether his Highness is aware of the General's proposal, or whether the latter has made it with the sole object of obtaining the support of my French colleague in his ambitious project of becoming Prime Minister.

But be this as it may, the matter is one deserving of serious attention.

Si Moustapha-ben-Ishmail is not only the Bey's favourite, but he has acquired and exercises an unlimited and a dangerous influence over his Highness' mind, who has promised to raise him to the Premiership. The public, as well as many of the foreign Agents, view with apprehension his approaching elevation to power. He has already thrown himself into the hands of M. Roustan, and it is more than probable that, in order to secure his protection, he will serve his views and projects at the sacrifice of the true interests of the Regency. It was through him that the French Company obtained permission to carry their railroad across the frontiers to Algeria, for which service the French Government has conferred upon him the Legion of Honour. He is, besides, totally unable to cope with an Agent of M. Roustan's intel-

ligence, experience, and tact, in carrying out the policy of his Government, which aims at the subservience of Tunis to France.

It is, therefore, in prevision of the mischief which the Bey's favourite will be soon in a position to create, be it from inadvertence or for personal considerations, that the Italian Representative will suggest to his Government the expediency of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary at the Berlin Congress being instructed to submit to it the question of this Regency, with a view to establish definitively its political status.

Should it be deemed practicable to pursue this wise course, it will greatly tend to lessen the rivalry between France and Italy with reference to this country. The Bey will no longer be distracted by the fears which each of the rival parties is endeavouring to raise in his mind regarding the other; and his Highness, feeling secure in his position, will be encouraged to maintain his connection with Turkey, as well as to act with greater freedom and less apprehension in the conduct of his affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 670.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

64, *Pall Mall, May* 27, 1878.

M. GENNADIUS presents his compliments to the Marquis of Salisbury, and has the honour to submit to his Lordship some further reports relating to the insurrection in Crete.

Inclosure 1 in No. 670.

M. Petychaki to M. Delyanni

Rethymne, le 16 *Avril*, 1878.

(Traduction.)

AINSI que je vous ai déjà écrit, les Turcs se sont avancés vers le village de Castello; neuf d'entr'eux y ont été tués, et deux blessés, dans une rencontre avec les Chrétiens. Quand les cadavres furent rapportés à Rethymne les Turcs firent grand bruit, prétendant qu'ils étaient affreusement mutilés; ce que l'on télégraphia à la Canée, au Gouverneur-Général, et aux Consuls. En conséquence Mr. Sandwith, Consul de la Grande Bretagne, est venu pour s'enquérir de ces prétendues mutilations; son enquête a eu pour résultat de le convaincre que les bruits que les Turcs avaient fait courir relativement à des mutilations, étaient dénués de fondement, et que le procès-verbal de l'autopsie des cadavres ne constatait aucun fait réel.

Une autre imputation faite aux Chrétiens c'est qu'ils rôtirnient les cadavres des Turcs. A ce propos je dois noter que le 7 courant, dans un engagement entre Chrétiens et Turcs, a succombé un gendarme; que sur l'un des côtés du cadavre les vêtements étaient brûlés, mais qu'on suppose que c'est la poudre de l'arme avec laquelle on avait tiré de près sur lui, qui avait brûlé les vêtements au gendarme, puisque, en la circonstance que je mentionne, il eût été impossible aux insurgés d'allumer un grand feu pour rôtir le cadavre du militaire en question.

(Signé) PETYCHAKI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 670.

The Provisional Government of Candia to M. Petychaki.

Myrou, le 8 *Avril*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous informer que les Turcs indigènes de Rethymne se livraient à des actes de violence isolés; c'est aussi qu'ils ont assassiné G. Stakiaudi, de Myrthé; G. Tziclaki, de Pyghi; B. Androulidaki, de Ghonia; C. Zervoudaki, de Métokia; M. Loukaki, d'Argyropoli; A. Papadaki, de Moundros; G. Mavraki, d'Argyropoli; et P. Pandelaki, de Skoulouria. Les nôtres, au contraire, obéissant

aux ordres de l'Assemblée et du Gouvernement, non-seulement ne s'approchaient pas des villes pour y exercer des représailles, mais encore, ayant fait prisonniers quatre Turcs, parmi les notables de Rethymne, les nommés Osman Agha, Xenthaki, Ismaïl Tamedaki, Ali Bolani, et Ahmed Lapoundji, ils les ont relâchés, et ces quatre hommes ont pu rentrer à Rethimyne sains et saufs.

Le mal que nous vous signalons commence malheureusement à prendre des proportions inquiétantes. De fortes bandes bien organisées pénètrent dans l'intérieur de l'île, où sont établies nos avant-postes, se mettent en embuscade, et essayent de mille façons d'assouvir les passions sanguinaires.

Parmi ces bandes il y en a une, celle de Samitzaraki, renommée pour sa cruauté, qui, à la tête de 500 hommes, pénétra de nuit à Lango, St. Basile, et lorsque les pâtres Chrétiens sortirent au point de jour avec leurs troupeaux pour les mener paître, ils fondirent tout à coup sur eux, s'emparèrent de leurs bestiaux, et égorgèrent sans pitié sept de ces pauvres pâtres inoffensifs et non-armés. Ils tourmentèrent même cruellement l'un d'entr'eux, nommé Elie Kantziliéraki, du village de Koxaré; ils en coupèrent le cou autour, laissant intacte la trachée artière, et retranchèrent l'un de ses poignets. Cet infortuné est maintenant dans un état affreux et il appelle la mort de tous ses vœux, pour qu'elle mette au plus tôt terme à son épouvantable agonie.

Ces attaques meurtrières auraient dégénéré en un véritable massacre, si quelques corps de Chrétiens postés près de là n'eussent repoussé ces agresseurs en les poursuivant jusqu'aux faubourgs de Rethimyne.

Cependant, non contents de ces hauts faits, les Turcs indigènes allaient entreprendre de nouvelles incursions dans toutes nos provinces, mais les nôtres, que les méfaits antérieurs des Turcs avaient mis en défiance, se réunirent aussitôt en grand nombre, s'approchèrent des villages qui servent de repaires à ces bandits, et ils y occupèrent des positions avantageuses.

En conséquence, quand les Turcs sortirent le 1er Avril pour renouveler leurs exploits, ils furent repoussés par les nôtres, près du village de Castello; le combat dura plus de deux heures; quelques Turcs y succombèrent; Hussein Pnevmatikaki, de Paléliimno, y fut fait prisonnier, mais on le relâcha. On se battit pareillement le 6 Avril.

Les infortunés Chrétiens domiciliés près d'Heraclion, ou qui s'y rendent pour acheter des provisions, sont en butte à des persécutions non moins cruelles; on les bat, on les dévalise, on les mutile, on les massacre. A l'endroit dit Kakou-Oros se trouvent embusquées une bande des brigands Turcs, de là elle fond sur les passants et les traitent comme nous venons de le dire.

A l'endroit dit Ghephyra, distant de vingt minutes d'Heraclion, des Turcs attaquèrent cinq Chrétiens inoffensifs qui regagnaient leurs villages; l'un d'eux fut tué, l'autre blessé, et les trois autres purent à peine se sauver.

La gendarmerie indigène, loin de venir en aide aux Chrétiens attaqués, fit cause commune avec les agresseurs, qui purent par conséquent échapper à toutes poursuites.

Les Turcs indigènes ont commis bien d'autres crimes, qu'il serait trop long d'énumérer et de spécifier; nous nous bornerons à dire que les nôtres, quoique pouvant user de représailles, ne l'ont jamais fait. Vous comprenez, M. le Consul, que ces méfaits et ces provocations renouvellées sans cesse par les Turcs indigènes, avec l'appui des Agents du Gouvernement de la Porte et menaçant de s'aggraver encore par la suite, contrarient grandement le dessein que nous poursuivons en nous soulevant, celui d'obtenir l'accomplissement de nos vœux nationaux et de ceux de nos pères sans l'effusion de sang, et grâce à l'intervention de l'Europe, vœux tendant à la reconnaissance de nos droits imprescriptibles.

Les Turcs indigènes qui ont même origine, même langue, mêmes mœurs, mêmes coutumes que nous, et que nous regardons comme des frères, nous avons tenu, dès le commencement, le principe à les respecter, eux et leurs fortunes, et nous avons donné des preuves multipliées de ce respect, car pas un des Musulmans qui ont quitté leurs villages n'a été molesté; loin de là, ils ont souvent été escortés par les nôtres jusqu'aux portes des villes.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, nous saisissons encore une fois cette occasion pour vous prier, M. le Consul, de transmettre à votre Gouvernement l'expression du désir dont tout le peuple Crétois est animé de voir s'accomplir nos vœux nationaux sans qu'il faille se résigner encore à de pénibles sacrifices, à des ravages, aux maux qu'entraîne la guerre civile, toutes choses que nous pourrions éviter si les Grandes Puissances se décidaient à intervenir.

Nous vous ferons savoir en terminant qu'après avoir constitué des Administrations

provinciales et des Tribunaux, nous sommes maintenant en train d'établir les autres autorités nécessaires à la bonne administration de l'île.

En vous priant de transmettre notre présente à votre Gouvernement et de la recommander à son bienveillant accueil, nous avons l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) N. G. MITZAKIS.
CH. ASCOUTZIS.
AUG. MIHILIDAKI.
STYL. HADJAKI.
M. M. PAPADAKI.

No. 671.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 28.)

Admiralty, May 27, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell (senior naval officer at Gallipoli), inclosing a petition from the Mussulman inhabitants of certain villages near Charkeui, praying for protection from the ill-treatment of the Greeks in their neighbourhood.

It is requested that these papers, together with the translation of the petition (which is also forwarded), may be returned as soon as done with.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 671.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Confidential)

"*Agincourt*," *at Gallipoli, May* 1-4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a day or two since the inclosed petition from the representatives of the Mussulman villages in the neighbourhood of Charkeui was presented to me by a deputation introduced by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, but seeing that the complaints set forth were not such as I could interfere in, I declined to receive it officially. The deputation, however, desired to leave it with me, and I therefore transmit the original Turkish writing, and a translation thereof, for your information.

2. The day following the above occurrence, the Greek Consul at Gallipoli called upon me, and on my informing him of the facts of the case, he undertook to exert his influence to prevent a recurrence of such outrages in future, but added that the Russians were doing all they knew to excite a bad feeling amongst the Greeks in the occupied territories towards the inhabitants of the Mussulman villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 671.

Petition from the Mussulman Inhabitants of Twelve Villages in the District of Charkeui, for Protection from the Ill-treatment they receive at the hands of their Greek neighbours.

(Translation.)

WE, the undersigned Mussulman inhabitants of the twelve villages hereafter named, belonging to the district of Charkeui, take the liberty to inform your Excellency that, according to the superior orders received by us, through the Kaimakam of the district, we restrained from the emigration we had decided upon, and, consequently, remained in our respective villages, continuing peaceably our old routine of agriculture and other occupations.

But no sooner did our visitors (the Russian soldiers) arrive than the inhabitants of the Christian villages in our district, namely, Gulljuk, Palamyti, Estrek, Kestamvolo, Genigeh, and Arab-Hadji, on one side, and the villages belonging to the district

of Malgara on the other, viz., Dévegi, Guzsus, Karagia, Habib, and Elusali, commenced to act as brigands, and being accompanied by a company of Cossacks, found no difficulty in collecting and seizing all our arms. This was only a beginning, because, later on, they returned, forcing their way into the Mussulman houses, pillaging and robbing every single article they could find in the houses, even clothing, up to the last "paras" that could be got at. They then began to seize all our animals (cattle), corn, &c. When all these were finished, they beat our men, and ill-treated our women in a most shameful way, in the hopes of being able to extricate any article of the slightest value which the Islams might still have in their possession.

We Mussulmans thereupon, being exceedingly vexed and hurt at this way of being treated, made several complaints to the Russian Commander of Charkeui, but no notice was ever taken of these complaints, and no one ever received the slightest satisfaction.

These brigands, encouraged by their impunity, and knowing that we Mussulmans had no arms, whereas they themselves were armed to the teeth, began to attack our villages with more violence, with the intention of destroying our villages and totally dispersing us; but seeing that it was impossible to make us quit our villages, these Christians have begun for the last fifteen days to attack each village separately, burning some of the houses and breaking into others, where they insisted upon being given every article of value, by the help of their knives, which they use as much on the women as they do on the men, and besides this, making use of every imaginable injury against our religion and faith.

They search without the slightest shame the pockets and the most secret parts of the women to find money, and at the same time to insult the Mussulman females.

The disastrous results arising from this ill-treatment in the village Tshakly, where seven people were killed or wounded, so completely terrified and discouraged our Mussulman population in the whole district that we picked out two men in each village, whom we elected to go and put our desolating case before the local authorities, but this step had no more success than the first one.

We then asked permission to emigrate with our families, and be escorted by soldiers of the line, for fear of being massacred by these brigands on the road. This also was refused us, but we got permission to arm twenty-five mounted Mussulmans as gens d'armes, in whose hands we were to place the defence of our property, but these guardians were accused of having been accomplices of certain Christian gens d'armes in the robbing of a Christian named Adamail. Excellency, we have arrived at the utmost misery, and we come with tears in our eyes to solicit your kind intervention and help, in order that we should either be allowed to emigrate with our wives and children, without running the danger of being massacred on our road, or else that we should receive some guarantee for the safety of our lives and property, and sufficient protection against the robbing and violations of these rogues.

May your pity be excited in favour of us, and of the poor women and children, who are now soliciting your kind and generous help, in the name of God and of humanity.

April 27
May 9, 1878.

(Here follow 60 Signatures and Seals of the Members of Councils and chief inhabitants of the aforesaid Villages.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 671.

List of the Wounded at the Village of Tshakly.

Ali Ben Inchured	1
His wife	1
Nagir Ahmed	1
His two daughters	2
The wife of Kutchuk Osman	1
Suliemun, wife and daughters	3
Osmanoglou Ali (by gun)	1
Wife of Yacoub Agha	1
Tchinkoglou Mehmed Agha and two daughters	3
Mother of Ahmed Ago	1
The Hodja (master) of Bulgurlu	1
Total	10

List of Killed.

Cherif Effendi of the village of Emirally	1
Mustapha Agha (emigrant), of Bally	1
A Musselman of the village called Jouva	1
Ditto ditto	1
Chakeroglou Halil, village of Kaluigi	1
Mehmed, brother of Gaeoub	1
Total	6

No. 672.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 28.)

(Secret.) *Admiralty, May 28, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 672.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Ismid, May 27, 1878, 11·15 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AMBASSADOR requests "Helicon" may be left in the Bosphorus to embark the Sultan, if necessary, as His Majesty fears a conspiracy against his life.

I have sanctioned [two final groups illegible].

No. 673.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 28.)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, May 28, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay has been ordered to proceed from Port Said to Suda Bay, Crete, with Her Majesty's ships "Minotaur" and "Defence," and Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince" has been ordered to join him there from Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 674.

Mr. Cowen, M.P., to Mr. Bourke.—(Received May 28.)

House of Commons Library, May 17, 1878.

Dear Mr. Bourke,

THE inclosed address has been sent to me from Paris with a request that I would present it to the Marquis of Salisbury. It was adopted at a meeting of Poles held in Paris on the 1st of this month. Perhaps you will not object to hand the address to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs when you have an opportunity?

I am extremely sorry to learn you have been unwell, but hope next week to see you back in the House in your usual health.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) JOS. COWEN.

Inclosure in No. 674.

Address.

A son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne.

Excellence,

L'EUROPE traverse en ce moment une phase tellement grave, que toutes les forces vitales des nations et des individus ne sont pas de trop pour combattre le danger qui menace la civilisation et la liberté.

En prenant la parole dans un moment si solennel, nous, les victimes séculaires de la politique envahissante de la Russie, nous croyons remplir notre devoir sacré d'hommes libres, sans nous demander quelle influence notre voix pourra exercer sur l'action de la diplomatie appelée à décider de la paix ou de la guerre. Nous sommes d'ailleurs convaincus que tôt ou tard la justice et l'intérêt bien entendu des peuples et de leurs Gouvernements fixeront toute leur attention sur la blessure la plus sanglante du corps Européen, c'est-à-dire sur la Pologne, notre patrie, qui fut jadis le rempart de la civilisation, et qui est devenue depuis 100 ans l'arène du despotisme Moscovite et de ses complices.

Nous nous adressons à votre Excellence, M. le Ministre, parce que vous êtes le représentant, à l'étranger, de la nation qui, par un concours de douloureuses circonstances, est devenue presque l'unique défenseur de la liberté Européenne; d'une nation puissante et généreuse qui s'est sentie peut-être plus menacée que les autres dans son honneur et dans ses intérêts; qui, comprenant mieux l'atteinte portée à l'équilibre Européen, montre plus d'énergie et de volonté pour mettre enfin un terme aux envahissements Russes.

Votre Excellence sait mieux que personne que l'esprit de conquêtes, ce triste héritage des siècles de barbarie, s'est maintenue avec toute son inflexibilité primitive dans la politique des Empereurs de Russie. C'est là jusqu'à nos jours le plus puissant instrument de règne sur les peuples qu'un despotisme de fer pourrait enfin lasser, si on ne leur jetait de temps à autre en pâture quelque province conquise. La conquête et la subordination à l'intérêt dynastique de toutes les lois divines et humaines, voilà tout le secret d'Etat de la Russie depuis Iwan-le-Terrible jusqu'à Alexandre II, le prétendu libérateur des Slaves.

Nous n'apprendrions donc rien de nouveau à votre Excellence, si nous lui présentions le tableau sanglant de la domination Russe en Pologne. Le monde entier connait les poignantes souffrances de notre patrie. Vos Agents Diplomatiques, aussi éclairés que consciencieux, vous ont appris, sans doute, ce que l'on doit penser du prétendu libéralisme Russe et de cette poudre jetée aux yeux des hommes crédules qui s'appelle sa mission Chrétienne et civilisatrice en Orient, lorsqu'on regarde nos ruines nationales et sociales; nos églises et nos villages détruits; la Sibérie et l'exil peuplés des plus nobles citoyens de la Pologne; notre langue chassée non-seulement de l'Administration mais aussi du temple et de l'école; notre histoire falsifiée par des scribes à gages; nos monuments et nos traditions injuriés et voués au mépris; nos tribunaux remis entre les mains de juges étrangers, ignorants, et avides; toute notre société, en un mot, livrée à la discrétion de fonctionnaires Russes dont on ne voudrait pas se servir dans l'intérieur de l'Empire. C'est chez nous que le libéralisme Moscovite a poussé la pratique de ses funestes doctrines jusqu'à défendre en Pologne de parler Polonais, jusqu'à interdire aux Polonais et aux Catholiques d'acquérir des biens immeubles, et, chose plus monstrueuse encore, jusqu'à contraindre, par la corruption et par les persécutions de toute nature, une partie de la population, notamment en Lithuanie et en Podlasie, à cacher ses sentiments religieux sous le masque de l'orthodoxie officielle, et une autre partie à vivre dans l'irréligion par le dégoût que lui inspirent les renégats d'un clergé systématiquement avili.

Cela suffit pour faire comprendre avec quelle douleur, avec quel effroi, nous envisageons le triomphe de la Russie en Orient. Les malheureux Bulgares, après avoir subi pendant quatre siècles la domination Turque, seront donc obligés de vivre désormais sous le même système de fer qui pèse sur notre patrie. Les funestes utopies Panslavistes des Czerkaski, des Milutine, des Pogodine, y seront donc expérimentées sous l'escorte inévitable des Mouravieff—le pendeur auxquels la Pologne a été livrée naguère par le libéral Empereur Alexandre II. Le drapeau d'un seul Czar, d'une seule religion, d'une seule langue, d'une seule armée, et d'une seule police, remplacera donc dans la péninsule des Balkans celui de la diversité des races et des croyances que la barbarie Turque y a laissé vivre paisiblement pendant des siècles.

Ce n'est pas tout. Le Czarisme, après avoir pris à revers l'Empire Austro-Hongrois, n'ayant plus rien à redouter de la part du Croissant brisé et terrassé,

marchera désormais en avant d'un pas d'autant plus sûr qu'il trouvera devant lui, jusqu'au cœur de l'Europe, cette race Slave qui, après avoir gémi pendant longtemps sous le joug Germanique, se réveille aujourd'hui, aspire à la liberté, et pourrait bien se laisser enfin séduire par la propagande Panslaviste appuyée sur les légions du Czar victorieux.

Et ne croyez pas, M. le Ministre, que ce soient là de simples suppositions de notre part. La politique d'envahissement de la Russie ne connaît pas de limites; tout ce qui se trouve devant elle, en Asie ou en Europe, n'est respecté qu'autant qu'il est inoffensif ou puissant. Déjà l'Empire Austro-Hongrois se sent menacé dans un avenir peu éloigné; on commencera à y comprendre que la Galicie pourrait bien être la première étape de la nouvelle marche du Panslavisme, et de Cracovie à Prague une seule bataille gagnée suffirait. Il viendra bien un moment, nous en sommes convaincus, où l'on comprendra même sur les bords de la Sprée, combien l'habileté diplomatique y a fait fausse route, combien la politique fondée sur l'affaiblissement de la France et sur la solidarité dans l'oppression de la nationalité Polonaise est fatale pour la liberté, pour la prospérité, et pour la vraie gloire de l'Allemagne. L'amitié des Cours, si sincère qu'elle soit, est toujours fragile. Le Panslavisme n'a jamais renoncé à aucune revendication; une fois maître des Slaves du Midi, il se rappellera que la Silésie et la Posnanie appartiennent à la même race et qu'un Roi de Pologne a marqué dans l'Elbe et la Saale les frontières de ses Etats.

Nous ne parlerons pas de l'influence que la Russie triomphante pourrait exercer sur les affaires maritimes et Asiatiques; ces graves questions touchent plus particulièrement et plus directement la Grande Bretagne, elles sont par conséquent plus familières encore à votre Excellence et jouent certainement un rôle prépondérant dans l'attitude si digne et si énergique de l'Angleterre en face de la Russie. L'importance des intérêts menacés dans l'Adriatique et dans la Méditerranée est attestée d'ailleurs par l'idée généralement reconnue comme indispensable de relever la puissance de l'élément Grec pour l'opposer au débordement Panslaviste. Certes, la réalisation d'une pareille idée serait accueillie avec joie par le monde civilisé, car ce ne serait pas une création artificielle de la diplomatie, mais le développement naturel d'une nationalité énergique et puissante, le triomphe du droit foulé aux pieds, de la justice trop longtemps méconnue. Mais, nous en appelons à la haute sagesse de votre Excellence, la reconstitution de l'unité Grecque, faite dans l'intérêt exclusif des Etats maritimes de l'Occident, pourrait-elle contrebalancer l'impuissance désormais irrémédiable de la Turquie et la prépondérance du Panslavisme sur les rives du Bosphore? Une telle attaque de flanc contre la Russie des Czars vivant de conquêtes, guettant avec persévérance toute occasion propice pour faire un pas en avant, ne serait-elle pas insuffisante? Une pareille barrière ne serait-elle pas facilement brisée à la première distraction ou aux premiers embarras de l'Europe?

Nous croyons fermement que, dans l'intérêt de l'avenir et de la paix durable, l'idée de la reconstitution de l'unité Grecque devrait être complétée par une autre non moins élevée, plus difficile sans doute dans sa réalisation, mais certes plus pressante et plus utile encore pour l'humanité et pour la civilisation Européenne, par l'idée du rétablissement d'une Pologne indépendante.

Que représente la Pologne par rapport à tous les peuples de la race Slave? L'antithèse de la politique envahissante et despotique du Czarisme Russe. Là, où la Russie dit: "Panslavisme," la Pologne montre son "Union de Lublin" (1569), avec sa formule: "*liberi cum liberis, æquales cum æqualibus.*" Là, où la Russie officielle combat au nom du prétendu droit de race, la Pologne proteste au nom du droit imprescriptible de toute nation de vivre indépendante et de se gouverner elle-même. Là où la politique de St. Pétersbourg cherche à tout ramener au niveau du centralisme Gouvernemental, la Pologne porte le drapeau de la fédération ou de la libre union des peuples. De là il résulte, que l'arme la plus puissante contre la menace perpétuelle du Panslavisme serait de reconstituer cet agent civilisateur qui, pendant des siècles, a défendu l'Europe contre les Mongols et les Tartares, et qui, aujourd'hui encore, est le seul représentant, au milieu des peuples Slaves, du droit et de la liberté. La Pologne indépendante, retrempée dans le malheur, ferait la plus salutaire des révolutions continentales; elle exercerait une influence bienfaisante sur tous les pays qui l'environnent, y compris même la Russie; elle contribuerait à détourner leur activité de ces courants désastreux par lesquels le despotisme et l'esprit de conquêtes entraînent leurs franchises et leur prospérité vers le même abîme. L'Allemagne elle-même, qui regarde d'un œil si jaloux et si hostile les peuples Slaves, surtout la Pologne, éprouverait un grand soulagement, un notable accroissement de sécurité, si au lieu du bruit des chaînes elle entendait de ce côté la voix de la paix et de la liberté.

Il est bien certain, l'histoire nous l'enseigne, que le partage de la Pologne a

entraîné fatalement dans le même orbite les trois Etats qui l'ont consommé. Depuis cette époque néfaste, les coalitions de ces Etats, qu'elles s'appellent la Sainte Alliance ou l'Alliance des Trois Empereurs, sont toujours possibles malgré la divergence d'intérêts et de tendances qui existe entre eux. La reconstitution de la Pologne affranchirait l'Europe de cette menace perpétuelle, en créant au milieu des trois Empires un Etat qui leur rendrait leur pleine liberté d'action; l'équilibre Européen reconquerrait une de ses bases sérieuses, le but que l'Angleterre poursuivait au Congrès de Vienne serait réalisé.

Voilà notre pensée toute entière, et ce n'est pas l'intérêt unique de notre patrie qui nous en a dicté l'expression. Votre Excellence y verra surtout le grand soin que nous avons mis de la considérer au point de vue de la sécurité et de la liberté de l'Europe.

Et maintenant que votre Excellence veuille bien nous permettre de répondre, en terminant, à deux reproches que nos ennemis cherchent à propager contre nous. Ils disent: "La Pologne est nobilière et réactionnaire, la Pologne est ultramontane."

Votre Excellence ne croit pas à ces allégations, comme n'y croient guère les hommes de cœur et de raison qui comprennent tout ce qu'il y a de pénible dans la situation d'un peuple plein de vie, et à qui on a violemment arraché toutes les conditions d'une existence libre; qui, sans Gouvernement, sans représentation nationale, sans une presse libre, ne peut défendre ni ses intérêts ni ses idées. Dans le passé la Pologne était un Etat libéral jusqu'à l'exagération, jusqu'à l'abus de la liberté, au détriment de sa propre sécurité. En tombant sous les coups d'un triple envahissement, elle a légué cette Constitution du 3 Mai, 1791, dans laquelle les vices de son ancienne organisation étaient écartés avec soin et le progrès vers l'union sociale si généreusement marqué, qu'elle a inspiré l'admiration universelle des philosophes et des sages de l'époque et surtout de ceux de l'Angleterre. Dans toute la période qui a suivi les partages, nous ne voyons aucune trace de la division en classes de la société Polonaise; au contraire, toutes les tendances des conspirations patriotiques, toute la propagande de l'émigration portent le cachet d'un libéralisme large et sincère, au point que la ferme volonté de fonder la future reconstitution de la Pologne sur l'égalité des droits et des devoirs se manifeste clairement dans les mouvements de 1846 et 1863. Aujourd'hui même, nous voyons dans les provinces Polonaises, où, par suite des réformes générales, l'ordre Constitutionnel a été introduit, la vie nationale se maintenir et se raffermir par le concours de toutes les couches sociales.

Une telle nation ne peut, non plus, être ultramontaine, et si, dans la douloureuse phase de son esclavage, abandonnée à ses propres forces, elle cherche dans le travail et dans les sentiments religieux le raffermissement de son énergie et n'applaudit pas au prétendu libéralisme Allemand et Moscovite qui aide avec passion à son asservissement, notre patrie a toujours su, comme elle sait encore, concilier les droits de la conscience avec toutes les nobles aspirations du siècle. A l'époque de sa splendeur la Pologne était la nation la plus tolérante de l'Europe; elle n'a jamais connu ni les guerres de religion, ni la sainte inquisition, et la triste page de son histoire qu'elle doit à un esprit d'intolérance momentané et d'importation étrangère, ainsi qu'aux suggestions Russes, est pour elle un sérieux avertissement de ce qu'elle doit éviter dans l'avenir.

Nous n'irons pas plus loin dans cet exposé sincère et convaincu de nos douleurs et de nos espérances. Nous aurions certes bien des choses à dire encore sur les forces vitales de notre nation et sur la solidarité méconnue de son état actuel avec le malaise général de l'Europe, avec cette paix armée qui écrase la prospérité des peuples au profit d'une gloire qui n'est plus de notre époque; mais votre Excellence en sait assez pour voir que dans notre conviction profonde, tous les efforts de l'Angleterre et de ses alliés pour établir une paix durable sur les ruines de l'Empire Turc, n'aboutiront qu'à une trêve momentanée sans le rétablissement d'une Pologne indépendante. Après l'affranchissement de l'Italie et de la Hongrie, là est la plus grande question de notre époque.

Nous sommes, &c.
Les Délégués d'un groupe de Polonais réunis à Paris,
le 1 Mai, 1878,
(Signé) LOUIS NABIELAK.
V. MAZURKIEWICZ.
VENCESLAS GASZTOWTT.
Rue Nollet, 81, *Paris.*

No. 675.

Mr. Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

The Eastern Telegraph Company Limited, 68, Old Broad Street, London, May 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this morning received a cable message from our Superintendent at Canea, in the Island of Crete, as follows:—

"*Tuesday.*—French fleet sailed for Piræus last night. British Consul returned from Apocorona. Insurgents accepted English mediation, but ask for regular armistice under *uti possidetis* before any negotiation."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES ANDERSON, *Managing Director.*

No. 676.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 513. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Sultan asked me two days ago to allow Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" to anchor opposite Orlakeui, as he then appeared to think that conspiracy against him was more important than it really was. He yesterday requested me to withdraw her, which I have done. I do not think that there was any real danger to the Sultan, but I could not refuse His Majesty's request.

No. 677.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 514.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING has been sent to Mr. Blunt to-day:—

"Upon your recommendation, orders have been sent to Assaf Pasha to take measures for putting down brigandage in Macedonia and for the pacification of this province."

No. 678.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 515.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING has been sent to Mr. Green, dated to-day:—

"Foreign Minister's orders will be sent to military authorities at Scutari not to stir up (?), to which you refer in your telegram."

No. 679.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 28, 1878.

HENNINGHAM leaves to-day for Belgrade. It might, perhaps, be advisable that he should have a letter from your Lordship, notifying to the Servian Minister that he is temporarily entrusted with the charge of Her Majesty's Consulate-General.

No. 680.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

Washington, May 28, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 22nd instant, I have consulted the Legation lawyer and another. They agree that the United States' Government has not the power designated in that telegram. The second lawyer adds his opinion that after declaration of war the vessels then belonging to a belligerent might be obliged to give security that they would not be employed against Powers with which the United States are at peace. The opinions go by to-day's mail.

No. 681.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 518.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has informed the Prime Minister to-day, in the name of the Emperor of Russia, that if the Porte will instantly give up to Russia Varna and Shumla, His Imperial Majesty will consent to withdraw his army from Constantinople. Prime Minister answered that he was prepared to make an arrangement for the surrender of Shumla, but that he could not enter into any engagement as to Varna. He has asked my advice on the latter point. I have recommended that Varna should be kept as long as possible, but I should be very glad to receive your instructions as soon as possible on the subject.

No. 682.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 519.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

SADYK PASHA is no longer Prime Minister. Mehemet Rashdi has been named his successor. Sultan seems to have lost his head in consequence of the attempt to proclaim Murad. Although the appointment of Mehemet Rashdi Pasha will not, I have every reason to hope, affect the policy of the Porte, these changes cannot but be most mischievous.

No. 683.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

(No. 520.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, May 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul at Salonica:—

"Insurgent Chiefs to the Queen.

"Mussulman population of Rhodope implore Her Britannic Majesty to take them under Her protection, and prevent execution of Treaty, from which would result massacres. They will be submissive to English law and discipline, and beg that two English battalions should be sent to maintain order."

No. 684.

Mr. Hawkes-Crabtree to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 28.*)

Buenos Ayres, May 27, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

ARGENTINE Government denies all knowledge of offer to sell any iron-clads, as reported in Admiralty telegram to Captain Carter.

No. 685.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 12. Consular.) *Tiflis, April 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the port of Batoum is now said about to be ceded to the Russians.

Affairs are assuming, on the whole, a more peaceful aspect, though munitions of war are still being forwarded to the frontier fortresses.

No one, however, seems to desire war, but, on the contrary, both the military and the general public regard it as equivalent to a great calamity, if not to absolute ruin, in complete distinction to the feelings with which they awaited the opening of the campaign last year.

The reason of this change is probably the severe losses they have experienced both in killed and wounded in action and by disease and exposure, during the winter campaign; the deaths from the latter causes more than equal the whole loss sustained during the actual fighting, which was itself of a very severe nature.

At present the greater part of the regiments on service in Asia have not more than from one-third to one-fourth their number of effective men; thus a battalion nominally 640 to 840 strong is now 200 to 250, while regiments which ought to number 2,200 men make up one strong battalion only. Most of their batteries also are inefficient, having not enough men to work the guns in action.

It is true that these regiments are to be recruited, but the material is very inferior, consisting of poor lads, fresh from their villages, who have a very poor notion of using their rifles, and would take a couple of years at least to form into efficient soldiers, the Russian peasant requiring more drilling to make him efficient than any other European, whereas these lads are being drafted into the ranks, with at best two months instruction, often not that, and without any musketry practice.

General Heimann has just died of typhus fever at Kars, making the fifth General whom they have lost during the winter from this cause alone, in addition to two killed in action.

The Grand Duke Michael is to-day to be created a Field Marshal, and General Loris Melikoff a Count of the Empire.

It is said that the Grand Duke Michael will be transferred from the Caucasus and replaced by the Grand Duke Wladimir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 686.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 13. Consular.) *Tiflis, May 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Batoum has not been yet ceded by the Turkish Commandant. Stores and troops are still being forwarded to the frontier garrisons, but most of the officers of the regular regiments there cantoned are away on leave, and any immediate outbreak of hostilities seems in high quarters not to be contemplated. Measures are being taken to erect redoubts and field-works to command the roads leading into the town, as, should war again take place and the country be invaded, a rising of the population against Russian rule is expected.

The army of the Caucasus has been so reduced by losses in action and typhus fever as to be considerably weaker than it was at the outset of the campaign.

As an instance I may state that the Moscow Grenadier Regiment passed through some days ago *en route* homewards from Alexandropol. This regiment, now consisting of 800 men all told, went to the front six months ago numbering 3,500. This loss was principally from typhus, from which cause they have lost more men than have been killed and wounded in action. There is, in fact, no effective army here at present, the regiments that have gone through the campaign having most of them been sent to Russia to recruit, and their places supplied by new levies, what are called "local battalions," which perform the duties of guards and military police, and are rarely sent on service.

I hear, however, that three divisions, numbering 60,000 men, are *en route* for the Caucasus from Siberia, and shortly expected, and that arrangements are being made for their transit by the Wladikavkas military road.

General Kemaroff is reported to be moving gradually viâ Artveen and the Chouruk-Su on Batoum from Ardahan, and the late concentration of troops at Ozurget and Poti looks as if a third attack on Batoum was contemplated at an early date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 687.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord, *Poti, May 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the steamers "Juno" and "Tchikatchoff" at Poti with four battalions, about 3,000 in all; they were very young men, evidently just recruited, and left immediately for Ozurget. The same steamers embarked at Poti a battery of eight field-guns with carriages, ammunition waggons, 200 horses, 500 men, and a number of wounded, for Odessa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 688.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Poti, May 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Poti of the steamship "Czarwich," with 2,000 young men of the reserve. The same steamer embarked at Poti a battery of field-guns with all equipment and wounded and sick soldiers for Odessa.

Sixteen thousand men at Artvin are pushing forward quietly by the southern road towards Batoum.

The road from Artvin to Batoum follows the course of the river Cholok, through narrow defiles which might be defended at every step. The Cholok is only navigable (on account of its rapid current and rocky bed) by flat-bottomed caïques, drawing about 6 inches, and manned by natives accustomed to the route.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 689.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Poti, May 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Poti of two steamers belonging to the Russian Steam Navigation Company, with 4,000 troops, 24 field-pieces with carriages, ammunition waggons, and all equipments. The troops were young men from eighteen to twenty-four years of age, they carried no weapons of any description, nor had they the regimental or divisional number on cap or shoulder; they left for Ozurget on foot.

A regiment of grenadiers from Kars leaves Poti by the same steamers for Odessa.

The continual arrival of troops, and their concentration at Artvin and Ozurget, give confirmation to the report that a simultaneous attack will shortly be made upon Batoum from north and south.

The Lazistan irregular troops, a brave race, have determined to defend Batoum to the last, but without the co-operation of iron-clads on the coast, they will be overwhelmed by superior numbers.

The hospitals at Poti are filled with sick and wounded soldiers, with few cases of typhus, the majority having intermittent fever, or fever and ague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 690.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 15.)
Poti, May 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the embarkment at Poti of the remainder of the 4th Division, Alexander II Grenadiers, about 2,000 men.

With the 1,000 already sent forward, these are all that remain of this division, which should number on war footing about 12,500 men, without counting officers or non-combatants.

It is said the loss sustained by this division from typhus and other diseases has more than doubled the actual loss in the field.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 691.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 29.)

Constantinople, le 28 Mai, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan a daigné nommer son Altesse Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha Grand Vizir.

No. 692.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(Very Confidential.)
Alexandra Hotel, May 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WHEN leaving Tehran I spoke with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the approaching visit of the Shah to St. Petersburgh, and urged upon him how desirable it was that he should lose no time in preparing His Majesty's mind to resist any attempts which might possibly be made there to induce him to consent to the adoption of any course of policy bearing upon the Eastern question. I said that it appeared to me very probable that the subject would be treated directly with the Shah, and that I was of opinion His Majesty should carefully abstain from giving any indication of the course he would adopt until after he had completed the tour of visits he intended to make in Europe.

His Highness expressed his concurrence in the suggestion I had offered, assuring me that he would not fail during the journey to take every opportunity of keeping the matter fresh in the Shah's recollection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 693.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 29, 1878.

IN his speech to the Delegations last night, Count Andrassy explained as follows the motives that obliged the Government to realize the credit voted. The eventuality which the Government had in view in asking for the credit was the same as they now contemplate, for it is now evident that the question whether the present crisis will lead

to a Congress, or to new conflicts, must at once be decided, and in neither case can the necessary military preparations be longer adjourned. The Empire must not remain in a position of dependence on one or other of the interested Powers. Those States have made great sacrifices for the maintenance of their interests, and the Austro-Hungarian Government cannot appear at a Congress, or even without one, except as an equally authoritative and powerful factor. The Government cannot give the details of the military measures to be taken, but will declare their object to be the strengthening of the Imperial forces there where on a peace footing they could not fulfil their present or eventual task, as, for example, in Dalmatia and Transylvania; also the holding in readiness some corps to be directed where they may be found necessary; and finally, the strengthening of some defensive positions, with other measures for the security of their communications.

No. 694.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, May 29, 1878.

FRENCH Government, in accepting the 11th June for the meeting of the Conference at Berlin, have renewed their former condition that Egypt and Syria shall not be admitted as subjects of discussion.

No. 695.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 29, 1878, 1 P.M.

THE Shah left this yesterday direct for Paris, viâ Warsaw, where he will remain two days. His Majesty will not visit Berlin.

No. 696.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 106.)
Foreign Office, May 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 173, Political, of the 17th instant, reporting the arrival of Admiral Lord John Hay at Port Said; and I have to express to you my approval of the despatch which you addressed to him relative to his proper course of action in the event of any Russian proceedings which might menace danger to the Suez Canal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 697.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 630.)
Therapia, May 17, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Prime Minister has informed me that Prince Labanoff has renewed the Russian demand for the surrender of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum; but that, although pressing it, he has not used any threats, nor has he said anything about presenting an ultimatum to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 698.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 638. Confidential.)
Therapia, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a private letter addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert from Adrianople, dated the 16th instant, informing me of the opinion of Russian officers and others as to the certainty of war between England and Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 698.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Adrianople, May 6, 1878.

Sir,

IT may, perhaps, be useful to report to your Excellency some confidential information which has been imparted to me regarding the prospects of war.

Mr. Buckland, of the "Daily News," who came here from Constantinople three days ago, told me, in confidence, that notwithstanding the then somewhat reassuring aspect of affairs, war was certain, having been decided upon at St. Petersburgh. He added, as a reason which could leave no doubt of the fact on his mind, that he was told so by Mr. MacGahan, who had hitherto always maintained a confident belief in peace, as well as an ardent wish for it, but who was now obliged to confess that he had been mistaken, the source from which he derived his information leaving no possible room for doubt. Mr. MacGahan was told at the same time that war would not, perhaps, be declared before another six weeks. But, as a practical result of the information received, Mr. Buckland was instructed to hurry through his projected tour in the neighbourhood of the revolted districts, and to endeavour to return by way of Salonica (from Sofia) as the surest means of getting back to Constantinople. A telegram which he received on the eve of his departure the day before yesterday, from Mr. MacGahan, reiterated the injunction to push on with all possible speed.

This information is confirmed by what I have learnt to-day indirectly from a Russian source. I have it from a perfectly trustworthy person that General Schildner-Schuldner told him to-day that war had been resolved upon at St. Petersburgh. The statement has all the more weight since the General, like all his brothers in arms, had never concealed his ardent desire for peace.

I am assured by a person who sees a good deal of the superior officers that the inconsistencies with regard to military movements and in other things within the last few days are owing to General Todleben's plan of a transfer of headquarters to Adrianople having been overruled by superior authority at St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CALVERT.

No. 699.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 639.)
Therapia, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Sultan, who is known for his economical habits and is desirous to reduce as much as possible the extravagant expenditure by which his predecessors have brought such serious trouble upon the Empire, has appointed a Commission, of which General Said Pasha is the President, to make a thorough examination into the expenses of his household and of the Palace. I have no doubt that the inquiry will be honestly made, and a thorough reform in the matter will be of no little advantage to His Majesty and his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 700.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 640.)
Therapia, May 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation by Dragoman Stavrides of an address sent to me, and signed by the inhabitants, Mussulmans and Catholics, of Ipek, Yacova, Gossova, and Yetchova, in Northern Albania, against the annexation of their country either to the new Bulgarian Principality, Servia, or Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 700.

Protest of Inhabitants of Ipek and Yacova against being included in New Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

A l'Honorable Ambassade Britannique.

NOUS venons d'apprendre que dans le Traité de San Stefano que la Russie a fait signer à notre Gouvernement, il a été stipulé qu'Ipek et Yacova, dont nous sommes les habitants, feront partie intégrante de la nouvelle Bulgarie et que Gossina, ainsi que d'autres localités, dont l'importance n'est pas pour nous moindre que celle de notre propre pays, seront cédées au Monténégro et à la Servie. La mise en exécution de ces deux stipulations équivaut à l'anihilation de nous autres Guégues, et par notre télégramme du 13 Avril nous en informâmes notre Gouvernement. Cependant comme nous connaissons bien sous quelle pression de circonstances il a dû signer le Traité en question et que les Puissances de l'Europe et spécialement l'Angleterre sont animées des meilleurs intentions envers notre Etat, nous nous croyons justifiés de recourir à l'intercession de votre Excellence auprès de son august Gouvernement pour qu'il veuille jeter aussi sur nous un regard de sollicitude.

Le pays que nous habitons est connu *ab antiquo* comme étant le pays des Arnaoutes (Albanais) et des Guégues, et nous sommes tous des Albanais. Comment, donc, pourrions-nous à cause d'un dixième d'Albanais Chrétiens qui existent parmi nous, renoncer à notre liberté et à notre bien-être, et nous soumettre à l'administration Bulgare, c'est-à-dire on d'autres mots, à l'esclavage Russe.

Quelle est la conscience qui admettrait une pareille chose et quelle est la loi qui la sanctionnerait! Les bandits de la Montagne Noire n'ont jamais pu gagner un pouce de terrain dans notre voisinage. Tout au contraire nos traces victorieuses restent près de l'église de Moratcha. Quant à la Servie qu'il y a un an courbait la tête devant nous, qu'elle veuille maintenant profiter de la faiblesse présumée d'une nation, est une bassesse digne des Slavs. Ainsi, nous appuyant sur la justice et l'équité, nous ne manquerons pas au sacrifice de notre vie, de nous opposer à l'extension des frontières de ces pays, attendu que les Serbes et les Monténégrins, qui sont déjà trop près de notre patrie s'ils font encore un pas en avant seront à même, sans aucun doute, grâce à leur convoitise et leurs intrigues, de s'emparer de notre pays dans un court espace de temps et de nous reduire à un état d'esclavage. C'est pourquoi nous n'acceptons ni d'être annexés à des administrations autonomes, ni de céder un pouce de notre pays, soit au Monténégro soit à la Serbie. Notre détermination à cet égard étant unanime et définitive, nous sollicitons par le canal de votre Excellence l'assistance réelle de son auguste Gouvernement en conformité des sentiments de justice et d'équité dont il est animé.

Le $\frac{29 \text{ Avril}}{10 \text{ Mai}}$ 1878.

(Signé) Tous les Habitants Musulmans et Latins d'Ipek, de Yacova, de Gossina, et Yetchova.

No. 701.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 641. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 18, 1878.*

THE day before yesterday a military correspondent of one of the leading English newspapers at the Russian head-quarters, whose communications to the press have certainly hitherto been very much in favour of Russia, and who has been in intimate relations with the Grand Duke Nicholas and the principal Russian Commanders, came up to Therapia to see me. He said that he thought it his duty, as an Englishman, to inform me that, from information which had reached him from the best sources, he was convinced that a *coup de main* upon Constantinople and an advance upon the Bosphorus was in contemplation, and that it might even take place within a very short time. He further stated that great efforts were being made to strengthen the fortifications of Adrianople, and to collect in that town provisions and munitions of war, which might enable it to withstand a long investment or siege. He recommended me to send some one to report to me on the subject.

Late in the evening a person employed by Sir Collingwood Dickson to obtain information as to the movements of the Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Constantinople came to inform me that in the course of the day the Russian camp at San Stefano and in the vicinity had been broken up, and that a large force was advancing northwards in the direction of Boghaz-Keui and the Black Sea, and Buyukdéré. Later at night the Sultan sent an aide-de-camp to tell me that that afternoon a body of Cossacks had appeared at Piringi-Keui, on the road to Buyukdéré, and had summoned the small body of Turkish troops stationed there to retire. Their Commander had refused to do so without orders, for which he had now applied.

The information that I had received earlier in the day having thus been confirmed from independent sources, I sent my telegram No. 476 to your Lordship, stating that a general movement of the Russian army at San Stefano northwards in the direction of Derkos had taken place that afternoon; that the Sultan had sent to tell me that a body of Cossacks had summoned the Turkish troops at Piringi-Keui to withdraw from that place; that there was reason to suspect that the Russians were meditating an advance upon Constantinople and the Bosphorus, and that I had communicated to Admiral Hornby this intelligence. I asked your Lordship whether it might not be desirable that the fleet should be nearer to Constantinople. I also requested Admiral Hornby to inform me by telegraph whether he was authorized to bring the squadron nearer to the capital, and I expressed my opinion that it was very important that it should be less distant than Ismid.

Early yesterday morning I was informed by Mr. Sandison that he had learnt from Mr. Cuppa, a British subject and one of the leading merchants of Constantinople, that he had received intimation from the Russians on the previous day that a farm which he owns, about six miles from the suburb of Eyoub, must be got ready immediately for its occupation by 5,000 soldiers. Mr. Cuppa consulted the Turkish military authorities on the subject, and was told that the Russians had no right to advance their lines towards Constantinople beyond the positions they had hitherto held. Mr. Sandison had further been informed by the Prime Minister that the Porte had been apprized of a general movement of the Russian troops at San Stefano and San Giorgio, and that by General Todleben's orders three days' provisions had been served out to them, which appeared to prove that some important military operation was in contemplation. Sir Collingwood Dickson, who had inspected on the previous day the Turkish lines between Daoud Pasha barracks and the Sweet Waters, in company with Mehemet Ali and Baker Pashas, fully confirmed the statements made by Sadyk Pasha as to a movement in the Russian camp, and as to the apprehensions of the Turkish Commanders that the Russians were preparing for an advance upon the capital and the Bosphorus. The reports of the proceedings of the Russians caused considerable alarm in Constantinople.

I telegraphed the above information to your Lordship yesterday morning (telegram No. 479). I subsequently received a report from an officer in the Turkish service, who is employed in obtaining intelligence of the Russian proceedings in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, further confirming these statements; with the addition that, besides three days' provisions, additional supplies of cartridges had been given out to the 16th Division, which had received orders to hold itself in readiness to march upon Boghaz-Koui. It was to be replaced at San Giorgio by twenty battalions taken from

the 1st Reserve at Tchataldjé and elsewhere. My informant added that there was a rumour amongst the Russian Generals and other officers that Constantinople and the Upper Bosphorus were shortly to be occupied.

At an interview that I had in the afternoon with the Prime Minister, his Highness stated to me that reports as to the intention of the Russian forces to advance upon the capital and the Bosphorus had reached the Government, and that he had directed the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ask Prince Labanoff for explanations on the subject, and especially as to the proceedings of the Cossacks at Pirindji-Keui, but that as yet no answer had been received from his Excellency, who had gone to Therapia.

When calling on Rushdi Pasha on my way home, I met M. Onou, the First Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, who expressed his regret that Prince Labanoff would not find me at home, as he had intended to remove from my mind any apprehension I might have entertained in consequence of rumours of an approaching attack upon Constantinople by the Russian forces. Although not specially authorized to do so, M. Onou said he would give me the most solemn assurances that nothing of the kind was contemplated, and that the movement which had taken place amongst the Russian forces encamped near the capital was entirely consequent upon sanitary and disciplinary considerations. The low grounds near San Stefano were very unhealthy, and owing to the sickness that prevailed amongst the troops, and their long inaction, their *morale* was not such as it should be; and General Todleben, being a very strict disciplinarian, was determined to keep them employed. This would account for the earthworks which it was said the Russians were throwing up for the purpose of fortifying themselves in their positions, and for the marching and counter-marching of the troops.

I thanked M. Onou for the explanations which he had been good enough to give me, and which, I said, I had heard with great satisfaction; as, no doubt, considerable alarm had been caused among the British as well as the other foreign communities by the advance made by the Russian forces towards the capital.

On returning to the Embassy I found Mr. Fawcett with a communication from Baker Pasha to Colonel F. Stanley, requesting that it should be transmitted in cypher, to the effect that a Russian attack on Constantinople and the Bosphorus was imminent, and that prompt action was all-important. I accordingly sent your Lordship my telegram No. 481 with Baker Pasha's message to the Minister of War, and informed your Lordship of what I had heard from the Prime Minister and M. Onou.

As it may be supposed that the reports which I forwarded to your Lordship of a contemplated advance of the Russian forces on Constantinople and the Bosphorus may hereafter be alleged to have been unfounded, I have thought it desirable to give the above explanations to your Lordship. The fact that the Russians have advanced towards the capital and Buyukdéré, and have not receded from them, appears to me to justify the suspicion to which it gave rise that the movement was not made for mere sanitary reasons, as equally healthy positions could have been found at a greater distance from the capital than those now occupied by the Russians in violation of the armistice, of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, and of their engagements with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 702.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 642.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter from Colonel Reshad Bey, an officer of French origin, who is chief of the staff of the Turkish army at Shumla. The person to whom it is addressed, a well-known and highly-respectable British merchant of Constantinople, has the permission of the writer to show it to me; but if the inclosed extract be published it may be desirable that his name should not appear. It is well worthy of your Lordship's attention, as completely confirming the reports that are received from all parts of Turkey in Europe occupied by the Russians of their deliberate intention to expel or exterminate the Mussulman population, and as to the feeling of the Mahommedans towards England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 702.

Réchad Bey to M. Hanson.

Choumla, le 1ᵉʳ Mai, 1878.

Mon cher M. Hanson,

PERMETTEZ-MOI de vous informer de ce qui se passe dans nos contrées, dont l'Angleterre, votre patrie, désire très ardemment le repos et la tranquillité, qui ne sont plus qu'un vain mot depuis que les Russes, associés aux Bulgares d'est d'un commun accord, ont fini par en faire presqu'un désert, et si l'on ne prend des mesures efficaces dans le plus bref délai, le mot presque, que je viens d'intercaller dans la première partie de ma phrase, pourra être supprimé, et le désert deviendra un fait accompli. Permettez-moi de vous faire savoir qu'en ma qualité de Sous-chef d'Etat-Major de notre armée, c'est moi qui suis chargé de la rédaction de la correspondance de son Excellence le Commandant, Fazli Pacha, avec les Généraux Russes; je suis donc plus à même que tout autre à vous renseigner exactement sur tout ce qui se passe dans le pays, même dans les localités les plus éloignées, c'est-à-dire, Nicopoli, Sistow, Roustchouk, Silistrie, Osman Bazar, Djumah, Rasgrad, Varna, Bazardjic et la Dobroudja, dont les villageois Musulmans ne cessent de nous envoyer très fréquemment les renseignements les plus détaillés sur les crimes, les attentats et les méfaits des Bulgares, encouragés par l'approbation tacite des Commandants Russes, qui ne cherchent qu'à anéantir ce qui reste des faibles débris de la population Musulmane, qui a pu jusqu'à ce jour échapper au massacre des Bulgares.

Je vous envois sous ce pli le texte d'une pétition que les habitants du village de Vardin (?) viennent d'envoyer à son Excellence Fazli Pacha, et pour laquelle j'ai écrit de sa part hier encore une lettre de représentation au Général Russe, Commandant le 4ᵉᵐᵉ Corps d'Armée en garnison à Tirnova. Depuis une semaine la famille d'un nommé Feizy (?), composé de neuf personnes, femmes et enfants, ont tous été massacrés par les Bulgares dans la ville même. Nous sommes informés par des voyageurs qui viennent d'arriver que plusieurs autres familles ont subi le même sort, et que toute la population Musulmane de la ville est déjà en route pour émigrer en masse, ne pouvant endurer plus encore les persécutions dont ils ont journellement à souffrir dans les yeux même du Général Wanowski, Commandant du 12ᵉ Corps d'Armée, en garnison à Roustchouk. Le manque de télégraphe ne nous permet de communiquer avec la capitale qu'une fois ou deux par semaine, de sorte qu'un coup-de-main exécuté par le fait des nombreuses troupes Russes qui nous entourent, deviendrait un fait accompli avant que Constantinople même fût en être informé. Il est donc de première nécessité de relier Varna par un cable immergé entre cette ville et la capitale, et cette mesure doit être mise en œuvre dans le plus bref délai. Nous manquons de cavalerie pour nous éclairer, mais il y a un moyen d'y remédier par un procédé d'une facile exécution; depuis le commencement des hostilités un ancien partisan qui battait la campagne avec une cinquantaine de ses acolytes, reste encore caché dans les forêts entre Djumah et Osman Bazar. Si l'Angleterre désire que ce chef intrépide de partisans tienne la campagne contre les Russes, à l'exemple de ce qui se passe entre Cavalla et Salonique, un agent habile envoyé sans retard ici pour arranger cette affaire avec le sus dit, lui fournir des armes et des munitions en moins d'un mois, il peut avoir à sa disposition plus de 30,000 guérillas, qui suffiront à eux seuls à forcer l'armée Russe à une retraite précipitée.

L'unique moyen donc pour vaincre la Russie sans sacrifier un seul soldat de la Reine est de faire comme en Espagne en 1808, lorsque les guérillas Espagnols forcèrent l'armée Française à abandonner le sol de l'Espagne, qui était entièrement occupé par leurs innombrables armées. Je puis vous garantir la formation de 50,000 guérillas avant qu'il se soit écoulé un mois, si l'Angleterre se décide à fournir l'argent pour les équipper, les nourrir et leurs munitions (*sic*), dont ils doivent être abondamment fournis, avec une pareille avant-garde, avec peu d'habits, de chaussures, et d'argent à fournir aux 30 bataillons de Choumla et les 25 qui sont à Varna et entre ces deux localités, il serait facile avec quelques bataillons de marcher sur, couper la retraite aux armées Russes, qui occupent les environs de Constantinople, ainsi qu'à celle d'Andrinople et environs jusqu'aux Balkans.

Mais la première mesure à prendre est celle de la pose d'un cable télégraphique à immerger, sans une minute de retard, entre Varna et la capitale; la seconde mesure l'envoi d'un Commissaire intelligent pour l'organisation de 50,000 guérillas, avec Youssouf Tchaouch pour chef, car c'est un homme sans pareil, aimé de tous, et dont le nom seul électrise tous les Musulmans décidés à s'enrôler sous sa bannière, c'est un diable entreprenant qui se chargera d'aller lui-même recevoir et prendre ses vivres et

munitions dans tel endroit de la côte qui lui serait désigné aux environs de Varna, au nord ou au sud de cette ville. Tous les émigrants encore capables de porter les armes se feront une joie de s'enrôler sous sa bannière.

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(Signé) RECHAD BEY.

No. 703.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 643. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 18, 1878.

I HAVE spoken to the Prime Minister and Safvet Pasha with reference to the suggestions made by Mr. Consul Sandwith, for the pacification of the Island of Crete. Mr. Sandison, in pursuance of my instructions, has sounded them on the same subject. As Mr. Sandwith had informed me in his telegram of the 15th instant, that the Cretans might probably accept an amnesty, I thought it better not to mention an armistice, as the Porte would, no doubt, take objection, as it did in the case of the Greek armed bands in Thessaly, to treating the insurgents as belligerents.

I found both Sadyk and Safvet Pashas willing and ready to accept Mr. Sandwith's suggestions, that a full amnesty should be extended to the insurgents through the meditation of Her Majesty's Government, and that a promise should be given that the Great Powers or England would settle in concert with the Porte a future form of Government for the island. They only hesitated to make any promise that might infer an intention of giving the island the character of an independent Principality. Safvet Pasha, moreover, seemed to think that the Porte could not enter into any engagements as to the future form of Government for Crete, as long as Turkey continued to be bound by the stipulations of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, which expressly provides for the reorganization of its administration.

However, both His Excellency and the Prime Minister gave me the most solemn assurance that when the time came, that is when Turkey would be able to act independently of the Treaty of San Stefano, the Porte would readily, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, make the most liberal arrangements for the administration of the island.

They further stated that on the faith of this pledge, Her Majesty's Consul in Crete might confidentially assure the leading and respectable members of the Christian population that, as soon as circumstances permitted, the Porte would reorganize the existing form of Government in accordance with the legitimate demands and requirements of the Christian Cretans. The amnesty, they added, should be granted as soon as I recommended it.

I telegraphed the substance of the statement made to me by the Prime Minister and Safvet Pasha to Mr. Sandwith. As soon as he informs me that the Cretan Christian Chiefs are willing to accept the conditions proposed by him and agreed to by the Porte, I will advise the Prime Minister to issue a Proclamation, granting a general amnesty, which I trust may lead to the pacification of Crete, especially as Mr. Wyndham informs your Lordship in his telegram of the 16th instant, that there are no longer any Greek insurrectionary agents in the island, and that the insurrection is said to be purely Cretan, although the Cretan Committees in Athens send arms and supplies to the insurgents.

I had the advantage of talking before seeing the Prime Minister, with Nikolaki Pasha Sartinski, Governor of Sphakia, who has been called to Constantinople by the Porte, and who brought me a letter of introduction from Mr. Sandwith, which speaks so highly of this gentleman's character and services, that I inclose a copy of it. Nikolaki Pasha expressed to me his opinion that the Cretan Christians would readily accept the conditions proposed by Mr. Sandwith. They were tired of the war, he said, and were anxious to live in peace with their Mussulman fellow subjects, who were equally desirous to live in peace and in the most friendly relations with them, but were prevented doing so by the intrigues of a few Mahomedan agitators, whose interest it was to keep the two populations in constant enmity. He mentioned as the leaders of this faction, Hamik Bey (whose evil influence in the island and over the Turkish Governors had been denounced to me by Mr. Sandwith), and one Hassan Effendi Kavowraki. He told me that he had been sent for by the Prime Minister to give information as to the condition of the island, and that he had no reason to believe that he was in disgrace,

although it was not improbable that the persons he had named had done their best to injure him with the Government.

I had an opportunity yesterday, when speaking with Sadyk Pasha about Crete, to advise his Highness to remove Hamik Bey and Hassan Effendi from the island. His Highness promised that he would endeavour to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 703.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

(Private.) *Canea, Crete, May 4, 1878.*

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of introducing to your Excellency the bearer of this letter, Nikolaki Sartinski Pasha, who for the last four years has been Mutessariff of the important district of Sphakia and Apokorona. During all this time Sartinski Pasha has governed that turbulent part of the country with singular tact and discretion, and has had the rare art of winning the confidence and esteem of the people he governed; while loyally performing his duty to his Government. His uprightness of character, joined to a sound judgment, is, I take it, the secret of his successful administration. Since his district was evacuated some two months ago, the Pasha has been living here, and has now been summoned by telegraph to Constantinople. Being a stranger to the base arts of the flatterer, Sartinski Pasha has never stood well with the clique, the character of which I have endeavoured to expose in my despatch of to-day's date, and it is strongly suspected that his summons to Constantinople has been brought about by their machinations. The Porte would be losing the services of a most meritorious servant, and one of unusual independence of character, if they listened to the charges which this ignoble clique may have preferred against him. Captain Clarke, when in Crete, visited Sartinski Pasha, and formed a most favourable opinion of him, and I am confident your Excellency would gain a more comprehensive idea of the present unhappy state of Crete, and of the causes which have led to it, by conversing freely with the Pasha, than by undergoing the labour of reading many of my despatches. It is this consideration which has encouraged me to give the Pasha this letter of introduction, which was unsolicited by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 704.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 644.) *Therapia, May 19, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 444 of the 4th ultimo, I believe, from the inquiries that I have made, that my colleagues have not received any special instructions from their respective Governments as regards the "exequaturs" of foreign Consuls in places no longer occupied by the Turks. Those to whom I have spoken on the subject have told me that they thought it better not to raise the question, but to leave their Consuls to get on as well as they could with the Russian authorities, and to do their best for the protection of the persons and property of their "nationaux."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 705.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 646. Confidential.) *Therapia, May 19, 1878.*

My Lord,

A NOTE has been addressed by the Porte to the Russian Ambassador, complaining of the proceedings of the Montenegrins, who are alleged to be committing acts of aggression upon Turkish territory, and to be preparing to renew the war against Turkey. I have been unable to obtain a copy of the note, but in substance it brings the following facts to the notice of Prince Labanoff, that the Montenegrin chiefs and several chiefs of Albanian tribes have been summoned to Cettigné; that orders have been given to the whole Montenegrin population to hold themselves ready for the immediate resumption of hostilities; that an appeal has been made to the Slavs inhabiting the countries on the borders of the Principality to rise against the Turkish Government; that special emissaries have been sent to the Miridites for the same purpose; that measures have been taken to send back the refugees from Herzegovina and Bilek, with provisions, implements (of agriculture), seed and money, to the average amount of one florin a head; that these refugees are to occupy the districts which are to be annexed to Montenegro; and that 6,000 of them have been enrolled as solders and armed and equipped. The Note points out that it would appear from these proceedings, that the Montenegrins are preparing to take forcible possession of places which were believed, at the time of the negotiations for peace, to have fallen into their hands, but which really remain in the possession of the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 706.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 647.) *Therapia, May 19, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of two petitions addressed to me by the inhabitants of the village of Orsha, near Gallipoli, and of the owners of farms in the village of Shakli, near Adrianople, who complain of the destruction of their property by Russians and Bulgarians, and ask for the protection of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 706.

Petition from two Farm-owners of Shakli.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES Soussignés sont deux possesseurs de fermes dans le village de Shakli près d'Andrinople. Ils se plaignent de ce que les Bulgares, poussés par les Russes, dévastèrent leurs fermes et leur enlevèrent des bestiaux et des grains de la valeur totale d 347,200 piastres qu'ils se partagèrent ensuite. Ils disent qu'ils n'espèrent pour en être indemnisés et pour préserver leur semailles de la destruction, qu'à la protection de Sa Majesté la Reine, à qui ils prient que leur pétition soit soumise.

Le 28 Avril, 1878.

(Signé) SALIH MEHEMET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 706.

Protest from Inhabitants of Orsha.

(Traduction en résumé.)

A l'Ambassade Britannique,

LES Soussignés habitants du village d'Orsha, près de Gallipoli, à une heure de distance de la ligne de démarcation, exposent que leur village ayant été occupé par les Russes, ceux-ci quatre jours après leur installation firent irruption dans leurs maisons et leur enlevèrent, de force, toute leur provision de blé, montant à 2,000 kilés, ainsi que tous leurs bestiaux, dont ils tuèrent une partie pour leur propre usage et en vendirent le reste à vil prix aux Chrétiens des environs; qu'ils démolirent les maisons pour en brûler le bois, en réduisant les pauvres habitants à quitter leur village pour chercher protection à Gallipoli, et qu'enfin leurs semailles, qui viennent de pousser, sont

également condamnées à la destruction, grâce aux troupes Russes qui y sont campées, et qui s'en serviront de pâturage pour leur chevaux exposant ainsi les pauvres villageois à une famine certaine. Les Soussignés s'en plaignèrent tant aux autorités Russes à San Stefano qu'à la Sublime Porte, mais sans résultat jusqu'à présent.

Les Soussignés sollicitent la protection Britannique pour être indemnisés de leur perte par qui de droit et pour la préservation de leurs semailles de la destruction qui est imminente.

Le 25 Avril, 1878.

(Suivent 19 Sceaux et Signatures.)

No. 707.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 649.)

Therapia, May 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter from Salim Effendi, one of the Chiefs of the insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains, addressed to the "Bassiret," a Turkish newspaper, in which he describes an encounter with the Russians, and requests the Red Crescent Association to send his followers medical assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 707.

Extract from "Le Bassiret" of May 20, 1878.

Traduction d'une Lettre adressée au "Bassiret" par Salim Effendi, Commandant des Insurgés de Rhodope à Couche-Alilèr.

APRÈS avoir dit que l'on se bat pour la vie et pour l'honneur, il fournit les détails suivants sur le second engagement que les insurgés auraient eu avec les Russes.

Lorsque les Russes eurent occupé la position de Gabrova (village au pied du Mont Rhodope) j'avais de mon côté pris possession de celle de Couche-Alilèr. Ce village avait été détruit par les bourbes Russes et j'ai déjà fait savoir ce que les Russes dans cette attaque perdirent de canons et de provisions. Les Russes continuant à faire feu sur notre position, et le village Couche-Alilèr ayant été entièrement brûlé, nous nous retirâmes, d'après ce qui avait été arrêté d'avance, à une excellente position à demi-heure de distance.

Les Russes, prenant notre mouvement retrograde pour une fuite, nous attaquèrent de toutes leurs forces. Alors de notre côté commençant à leur faire face des collines et des positions élevées où nous étions, nous leur fîmes, grâce à la valeur de mes compagnons, subir une perte de 250 hommes, et nos différentes détachements les poursuivirent d'un côté jusqu'à Gabrova, d'un autre côté jusqu'à Shermetler, et d'un autre jusqu'à Guetchordji, à deux heures distant de Haskioi. En dehors de l'honneur de la victoire remportée, mes braves compagnons prirent sur l'ennemi 300 fusils Henri-Martini, avec une partie de munitions, ainsi que des ustensils de cuisine et beaucoup de riz et de biscuit et autres provisions abandonnées par l'ennemi à Gabrova. Nous expédiâmes une partie de ces provisions aux pauvres Mouhadjirs (réfugiés) qui sont dans nos montagnes sans aucune ressource. Nos pertes en cette occasion se reduisent à cinq hommes tués et plusieurs blessés, dont la plupart sont en voie de guérison, mais plus tard nous aurons besoin de chirurgiens et de médecins, et je pense qu'il est du devoir de tout homme charitable de venir à cet égard en aide à des gens qui se battent pour l'honneur et la vie de leurs compatriotes et pour la défence de leur pays. Je crois même que vue la légalité de notre lutte la Société du Croissant Rouge ne refusera pas de nous assister. Pour le moment nous occupons neuf positions très-fortes et nous avons besoin de deux chirurgions pour chacune d'elles. En tout cas nous ne désespérons pas d'obtenir à cet égard l'assistance d'hommes charitables ainsi que celle du Croissant Rouge, et nous prions qu'il soit fait droit à notre légitime demande.

No. 708.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 650. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 20, 1878.

I CALLED to-day upon Prince Labanoff, the newly-arrived Russian Ambassador. I had some conversation upon political matters with his Excellency, who commenced it by saying that he was come on a mission of peace, that the Emperor was earnestly desirous of arriving at an agreement with England, and that if England were equally ready to come to a friendly understanding with Russia war would be avoided. If, however, England had made up her mind to have war with Russia war was inevitable. I replied that I was convinced that neither Her Majesty's Government, nor a single Englishman in his senses, desired war for war's sake. I was aware, I said, that I had the reputation in Russia of endeavouring to promote a war between the two countries; but that nothing was further from the truth. I had done my very utmost from the day I had arrived at Constantinople in favour of peace, and was ready to do so still. He must not, however, forget, I said, that there were English interests of the highest importance at stake in the questions at issue between us, interests which it was the duty of an English Government to maintain and uphold under all circumstances and at any sacrifice. I could not but regret that Russia had been misled into the belief that England either no longer attached importance to them, or was not prepared to defend them. I thought that this had been the main cause of the critical position in which we now found ourselves.

Prince Labanoff said that he would tell me frankly that he had been warned that I was a strong partizan of war between England and Russia, and that I had provoked the Turks to war. He was glad to hear that such was not the case, and I might rely upon finding in him a colleague who, whilst also defending the interests of his country, was ready to act cordially with me in maintaining peace. He could not but regret, he observed, that Russia had not been made to understand clearly, at the beginning, the interests which England considered menaced by a war between Russia and Turkey. The "three points" communicated to Count Schouvaloff were not, in his opinion, sufficiently explicit and defined. They had misled the Russian Government. His Excellency remarked that he was convinced that if peace were really desired by both countries it would be preserved; but it was necessary not to aim at too much at first. We should go step by step ("par étapes"). The first step was the Congress. If we could once get into Congress he was persuaded that, with a little good will on either side, we should come to an understanding.

I ventured to remark to Prince Labanoff that it appeared to me that, for the present, it was of the utmost importance to prevent any accidental collision between the Russian and Turkish troops. In consequence of the recent forward movement of the Russian army, which had now occupied positions menacing the Turkish line of defence, and very close to the city, great alarm had been, not unnaturally, caused amongst the population of the capital, and any further advance on its part might produce consequences which, I was convinced, he would deeply deplore. A mere misunderstanding between the outposts might lead to an exchange of shots, which might prove the signal for a general renewal of hostilities. It should be his object, as well as mine, to prevent anything of the kind, and I was doing my best to induce the Turkish Government to take every possible precaution in order to avoid any untoward accident.

Prince Labanoff said that he was entirely of my opinion, and would be ready to act with me in the matter. We had already seen General Todleben, who was most sincerely desirous to avoid anything like a collision with the Turks, and upon whose prudence and moderation I might entirely rely. The movement he had thought it necessary to make was founded purely on sanitary considerations. He had now proposed, in order to prevent any future misunderstanding, that a line should be drawn by special Commissioners between the two armies which neither should pass, and that the outposts should be at three or four hundred paces from each other. If the Porte agreed to this arrangement, no further danger need be apprehended.

The Prince then asked me whether it was not true that the present Sultan was very unpopular with his subjects, and that there was a good deal of ill-feeling and agitation against him and his Ministers in Constantinople. I replied that, in my opinion, the Sultan and his Government were not more unpopular than they might be expected to be, considering the great calamities that had befallen the Empire, and the

terrible sufferings to which the Mussulman population were exposed, and for which, as was always the case under these circumstances, they blamed their rulers. I gave Prince Labanoff a description of the misery and loss of innocent life that had been caused by the invasion of Turkey by the Russian armies, and by the conduct of the Bulgarians, which appeared to make a deep impression upon him.

The Sultan and the Turkish Ministers have been favourably impressed by the conciliatory disposition and agreeable manners of Prince Labanoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 709.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 651. Secret.) *Therapia, May 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE Sultan sent an aide-de-camp early yesterday morning to request me to come to the Palace. His Majesty, whom I found looking over some maps of the country between Buyuk-Tchekmedjé and Constantinople, told me that the Russians had, during the last two or three days, advanced considerably beyond the lines they had occupied on arriving at San Stefano, and had possessed themselves of several points of strategical importance, menacing the positions held by his troops. The appearance of a body of Cossacks at Piringli-Keui led him to believe that it was the intention of General Todleben to secure the road to Buyukdéré and the upper part of the Bosphorus. His Majesty showed me the positions occupied by his troops, and those now held by the Russians. He said that his Minister for Foreign Affairs had asked for an explanation from Prince Labanoff of the forward movement of the Russian army, and that General Todleben, who had been to confer with the Russian Ambassador, had now proposed that a line of demarkation between the two armies should be laid down by a Joint Commission, consisting of Russian and Turkish Generals.

His Majesty said that he felt the greatest objection to this proposal, as if he accepted it he might be held hereafter to have sanctioned the occupation by the Russians of positions to which they had no right whatever. The line of demarkation of the neutral zone had been defined by the armistice of Adrianople at Tchataldja. Let the Russians return to it. They were now far beyond it, in violation of the armistice, of the Treaty, and of the formal engagement given by the Grand Duke Nicholas, that he would occupy San Stefano as a mere counter-demonstration to the entry of the British fleet into the Sea of Marmora, with only 1,000 or 1,300 men, including his staff and escort, leaving at Kutchuk Tchekmedjé about 7,000 men at most to secure his communications. His Majesty added that he had told the Prime Minister that the proposal of General Todleben should be declined, and he asked my opinion on the subject.

I replied that I would venture to represent to His Majesty that it was in every respect most desirable that the suggestion made by General Todleben should not be declined. It appeared to me, I said, that two things were of the utmost importance, and should be kept steadily in view.

First, to prevent any collision with the Russians, or any accident that might cause a misunderstanding, which might lead to the renewal of the war, and prevent the peaceful arrangement which Her Majesty's Government were so earnestly labouring to effect; and secondly, to throw the responsibility for any act which might bring about hostilities upon Russia, so that Turkey might not be accused by Europe of having provoked war, and thus forfeit the moral support and sympathy she might otherwise expect. Consequently His Majesty would, I thought, do well not to reject the proposal that had been made by General Todleben, which might be so modified as not to be open to the objection that it would, if accepted, infer the right of Russia to occupy the lines she had seized. I suggested that this might be done by agreeing to the appointment of a General on either side, who would ascertain and take note ("prendre acte") of the positions actually occupied by the two armies, and that a mutual understanding should be come to, that neither army should advance beyond them. In this way collisions at the outposts, and the alarms caused by the movements of the forces on both sides, which might lead to untoward consequences, would be avoided.

His Majesty requested Said Pasha to write down my suggestion, which, he said, he entirely approved, and would at once communicate to the Prime Minister. Sadyk Pasha, whom I saw to-day, thanked me for having given this advice to His Majesty, which was entirely in accordance with his own views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 710.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 652.) *Therapia, May 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter addressed to me by Messrs. Psichari and Sarakioti, two Greek gentlemen who are the representatives at Constantinople of the Greek community at Philippopolis, protesting against the arbitrary conduct of the Russians towards their fellow-countrymen in Thrace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 710.

MM. Psichari and Sarakisti to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, le $\frac{9}{21}$ Mai, 1878.

Excellence,

LES Soussignés, représentants permanents à Constantinople des Grecs de la Province de Philippopolis, ont l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence les faits ci-après:—

Depuis l'occupation militaire de la Thrace par l'armée Russe, la population Grecque de cette contrée est soumise à des vexations sans nombre, ayant toutes pour but, soit de faire émigrer les anciens habitants de ce pays, soit de les constreindre à reconnaître une nationalité qui ne fut jamais la leur.

Ainsi, tout dernièrement, l'autorité Russe a fait subir la conscription, malgré leurs énergiques protestations, à un grand nombre de Grecs de la Thrace occidentale, sous prétexte qu'ils sont Bulgares ou d'origine Bulgare.

Notre devoir de représentants nous oblige à protester contre des telles mesures, dont l'arbitraire et l'injustice ne manqueront pas de frapper votre Excellence, ainsi que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, auquel nous vous prions de vouloir bien transmettre nos justes réclamations, et dont nous implorons pour nos compatriotes la haute et bienveillante protection.

Nous avons, &c,
(Signé) A. PSICHARI.
B. SARAKISTI.

No. 711.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 657.) *Therapia, May 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

AN incident occurred yesterday which might have led to serious consequences. A body of men—supposed to be refugees, but, according to some persons, only pretending to be such, headed by Aali Suavi Effendi, and all armed with revolvers—forced an entrance into the Palace of Teheragan, where the ex-Sultan Murad has hitherto resided. The statements as to their numbers differ. According to one account which has reached me they were only 40 or 50; according to another, between 200 and 300. Your Lordship will no doubt recollect the name of Aali Suavi, and that I succeeded some time ago in having him dismissed from his post as Director of the College of Galata Serai. He was a mischievous intriguer who had, on more than one occasion, endeavoured by seditious placards, and by preaching in the mosques of Constantinople, to excite the fanaticism of the Mussulman population, and to produce disorders and disturbances. Although a Softa, he professed very liberal opinions, had resided in several European capitals, at one time in exile, and had married an English woman. For various reasons I had declined to make his acquaintance.

It appears that about one o'clock yesterday he appeared at the head of his followers, at one of the back entrances of the Palace, which stands on the Bosphorus, and demanded admission on the plea of wishing to deliver a petition to the Sultan from the refugees, affecting to believe that His Majesty was there. The sentinel, who refused to allow them to pass through the gate, was immediately cut down. Ali Suavi then succeeded in forcing his way into the Palace with 50 or 60 men, and reached the ex-Sultan's apartment. He directed the persons who were with him to shout "Long live Sultan Murad," and endeavoured to induce the deposed Sovereign to follow him. In the meantime, the shots which had been exchanged with the sentinels had brought a considerable body of troops to the Palace. They soon dispersed the conspirators. Those who remained outside fled. Those who had entered were for the most part shot down. Aali Suavi himself appears to have been killed by a bayonet thrust in the presence of the ex-Sultan, who afterwards concealed himself in the harem. According to the account given by the Government 16 persons were killed and 20 wounded, and some were made prisoners. One of the cavasses of the Embassy, who succeeded in getting into the Palace, declares that he saw about 60 or 70 bodies, and, as several soldiers and zaptiehs were amongst the dead, it is probable that this number is nearer the truth.

I happened to arrive at the Porte just as the news of the occurrence reached the Ministers, and as Sadyk Pasha had been summoned by the Sultan to the Palace of Yeldiz, his Highness was not then, he told me, fully aware of what had taken place. Great alarm prevailed at the Porte, and the usual exaggerated rumours were flying about Galata.

I passed the Palace of Teheragan shortly afterwards, and although it was surrounded by a considerable body of troops, and no boats were allowed to approach it, everything was quiet. The fact that a conspiracy to bring about the restoration of Sultan Murad was going on had been known for some time, and precautions had been taken to meet the danger. The army having remained faithful to the Sultan and Government, and the capital being indifferent to what had happened, no serious results are apprehended from the occurrences of yesterday. Still there is, undoubtedly, a very uneasy feeling prevailing in Constantinople owing to the refugees who are literally starving, and to whom the Government is no longer able to give food. When I was at the Porte a crowd of some 300 women and children, who declared that they had not touched food for nearly two days, came into the building clamouring for bread.

It is stated that only a few of those who followed Aali Suavi Effendi were refugees, and that they had been told by him that they were to go to the Sultan to receive money to return to their homes, and to support their families, on finding that they had been deceived, and that they were expected to force their way into the Palace, the greater part remained outside, and the others fled. Those who entered the building with Aali Suavi are said to have been Circassians and Pomaks, who had received money from him. When his house was searched for papers, his wife endeavoured to destroy a photograph, which appears to have been that of a Circassian Chief who was killed in the struggle.

Sultan Murad has been removed to Yeldiz-Kiosk, where his brother resides.

I inclose extracts from the "Levant Herald" and the "Turquie," giving accounts of this affair, and a proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of the capital by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 711.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

MYSTERIOUS MOVEMENT AT TCHERAGAN, CONFLICT IN THE PALACE, DEATH OF ALI SUAVI EFFENDI.—YESTERDAY morning a crowd of several hundred refugees, or men in the costumes of Roumelia, assembled in the broad road which leads by the Palace of Toheragan from Beshiktash to Ortakeui. They were quiet in their demeanour, and the assemblage created no alarm in the neighbourhood until about 11 o'clock, when they approached the great gates opening upon the central building of the palace designed for the residence of Sultan Abdul-Aziz, and lately occupied by ex-Sultan Murad V. At this gate, the persons who directed the movements of the crowd were observed to demand admittance, and when this was refused by the sentinel on duty a rush was made, the sentinel was overpowered and stabbed, and the mob pushed its way through the courtyard and gained the entrance to the palace itself. Here there was resistance on the part of the guard, and some shots were fired, but the sentinels were borne down by the weight of the crowd, a portion of which passed over their bodies into the palace, but the great bulk of the crowd remained outside. The persons who pushed their way into the building are said to number upwards of 100, but their number is not precisely known. They, however, seemed familiar with the building, and went straight to the apartments of Murad. By this time, however, the alarm of the shots fired by the sentries had brought two companies of infantry to the spot, at the sight of whom the crowd outside the palace rapidly dispersed. Marching on into the palace, after closing the gates behind them, the troops met the mob, and a conflict ensued, which began with daggers and bayonets, and ended in a fusillade. The result was that the intruders were defeated, 21 were killed, 17 wounded, and the rest taken prisoners and sent at once on board the ironclads in the Bosphorous. Among the dead were his Excellency Ali Suavi Effendi, late Governor of the Imperial Lyceum of Galata-Serai—formerly well known as a prominent exiled *littérateur* of the "Young Turkey" party—as also a Circassian chief, and some other leaders of the movement. The wounded prisoners, after being questioned by the *bimbashi* (officer in charge), were, at His Majesty's request, taken before the Sultan, who interrogated them in person. They were, they said, from the neighbourhood of Philippopoli, and had joined a band which had been raised by Ali Suavi and the Tcherkess chief, with the avowed object of assisting their brethren in the Rhodope. Ali Suavi had given them arms, and had mustered them near Teheragan to do homage to the Sultan before they started on their expedition, and the Sultan, they had been led to believe, would furnish them with money. They were not aware that Murad was not the Sultan, or that they were going to the presence of Murad; they thought they were being led to their Padishah. The Sultan expressed his commiseration for them, as they had been deceived by the instigations and misrepresentations of the ringleaders, and he ordered that every medical attention should be paid to the wounded.

Early in the afternoon, His Majesty summoned Ministers to a special Cabinet Council at Yeldiz-kiosk, at which some measures were discussed for the prompt removal of the refugees from the capital, and if our information be correct, it was decided to charter without delay a sufficient number of steamers to convey them to some other place. After the Council the Sultan sent an invitation to ex-Sultan Murad to come to the Imperial villa at Yeldiz, which that Prince at first declined to accept, and he was even inclined to resist it when pressed upon him by His Majesty's aide-de-camp. On being assured, however, that he would be exposed to no sort of inconvenience, Murad Effendi attended the aide-de-camp to the Sultan's residence at Yeldiz-kiosk, and still remains there, the guest of his Imperial brother.

Inclosure 2 in No. 711.

Extract from "La Turquie."

LA Sublime Porte a publié hier soir la Proclamation suivante:—

"Le nommé Ali Suavi, connu par la population pour ses intrigues, son esprit séditieux et ses perfidies envers la nation et l'Etat, a cherché à réaliser ses vues personnelles et séditieuses. A cet effet, s'adjoignant quelques individus, incapables de discerner le bien du mal et sans les informer aucunement du but auquel il visait, il s'est rendu ce jourd'hui $\frac{5}{17}$ Mai vers quatre heures du matin à la Turque devant le Palais de Tchéraghan. Quelques-uns de ces individus sont parvenus à s'introduire dans le palais dans le but (Dieu nous en préserve) de provoquer une sédition, mais par la grâce de Dieu les promptes et efficaces mesures qui ont été prises ont eu pour résultat de disperser sur le champ cette réunion.

"Ali Suavi, auteur de cette cabale, a été tué dans la collision qui est survenue. Les principaux complices, d'un nombre très restreint, ont été arrêtés.

"Ce comité séditieux n'ayant point de ramifications, la sécurité et l'ordre public, sous les auspices de Sa Majesté le Sultan, n'ont été aucunement troublés.

"Sa Majesté le Sultan a ordonné que l'on procédât immédiatement à l'instruction du procès des complices arrêtés, et qu'on leur infligeât les punitions qu'ils auront encourues, conformément à la loi."

Les journaux Turcs de ce matin, en dehors de la communication officielle qui précède, ne contiennent aucun détail sur les événements d'hier.

Le cordon qui a été établi hier, par mer et par terre, tout autour de la résidence du Sultan Mourad, a été levé ce matin. Tout est rentré dans l'ordre.

No. 712.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 659.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by M. Leonidas Chrissoveloni, who represents at Constantinople a large Manchester firm engaged in the Persian trade. He points out the serious consequences which will result to the trade between Persia and England if the provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano are carried out as regards the extension of the Russian frontiers in Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 712.

M. Chrysoveloni to Mr. Layard.

Sir, 2, *Youssoufian Khan, Stamboul, Constantinople, May* 18, 1878.

YOUR Excellency is aware that the greater part of the merchandize constituting what is called the "Persian trade," and coming not only from Great Britain, but also from all the other countries of Europe, has ever passed through Constantinople, and thence on to Tabreez, by the way of Erzeroum and Diadin (near Bayazid).

The value of the commerce with Persia, to and from Great Britain alone by this route, is estimated at about 1,600,000*l.* sterling (40,000,000 fr.) per annum.

What the value of the commerce with Persia is to and from the other countries in Europe by this route is not known, but, judged by the trade with Great Britain, it must amount to at least 800,000*l.* (20,000,000 fr.) per annum.

I am largely interested in this Persian trade, as I am a member of the firm of Souvazoglu Brothers and Co., who trade largely between Manchester and Persia, and I now beg to call your Excellency's attention to the following facts.

By the Treaty of San Stefano, if that Treaty is retained as at present, a great part of the before-mentioned route to Persia, and which has been deemed indeed the highway from Europe to Persia, is annexed by Russia.

The consequence of such annexation must be most fatal to the British and Continental commerce with Persia. Not only will the Russians use this highway for the transit of their own goods to and from Persia, but they will, as in the case of the route by Tiflis, throw such obstacles in the way of the transit of any goods belonging to other nationalities that, as a matter of fact, the highway to Persia, viâ Erzeroum and Diadin, will be stopped to Great Britain and to the commercial world.

Your Excellency is aware that some years since the Russians opened railways from Poti to Tiflis, and many merchants endeavoured to avail themselves of that route as more expeditious—but what did the Russians? Under the pretence of preventing any attempt at smuggling, they at once imposed a law by which for every package which passed by that route, and which came from any country but Russia, a guarantee to the amount of 200 roubles in gold per "poud" (36 lbs.), or 190*l.* per package of 220 lbs. weight, had to be given to their Douane, that such package should not be opened nor its contents sold in the course of its transit through Russian territory.

The law thus imposed, and the difficulty and expense of obtaining such a guarantee, which had to be given by native bankers, became an effectual bar to the use of the route by Tiflis by British and Continental merchants.

If, then, the most direct highway to Persia by Erzeroum and Diadin is now to fall into the hands of the Russians, they will be able to impose their own terms and conditions, and the trade of Great Britain and of all the nations on the Continent of Europe will suffer proportionally.

On the part, therefore, of the British interests involved in this matter, may I be permitted to make the following suggestions:—

That if the Treaty of San Stefano remain as at present with regard to annexation by Russia of the greater part of the present route from Trebizond to Tabreez, that as this is a matter which affects the interests, not only of Great Britain, but of all the other Powers in Europe, that such highway be placed under, and be administered by, an international European Commission, as has been the case with the Danube.

There are some 100,000 packages which pass annually over the route, let a tax of about 3 fr. per package be laid thereon, this will produce an annual sum of about 300,000 fr., out of which sum a Commission might provide for the safety of such route, and for the making and keeping both it and its bridges and culverts in proper and efficient repair; for at the present moment the route, especially during the spring season, is so flooded by water, that during the wet season delays of several days in continuance often occur to the caravans.

To save expense this Commission might be placed under the European Consuls resident at Trebizond, Erzeroum, and Tabreez; with a chief and small permanent engineering staff, and a sufficient force of police requisite to protect the road and carry the Commission into effect.

I should imagine that Austria and France, as well as Germany, will feel the necessity of some such arrangement, and will make common cause with Great Britain in requiring it. If some such arrangement be not made, the Persian trade will be diverted by the far more dangerous and more circuitous route of the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, and up to Bagdad by the Tigris; whilst Russia will gain the advantage over all other nations of having under its own control, and in its own exclusive power, the direct route between Europe and Persia, by the way of Erzeroum and Diadin, and by which she could pass her own goods, and prevent by her laws of transit the passage of British and European goods.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEONIDAS J. CHRYSOVELONI.

No. 713.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 661.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Acting Consul at Adrianople, containing items of military intelligence, and also copy of a despatch from Captain Fife, respecting the want of money among the Russians at Hadosto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 713.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, May* 16, 1878.

CONTRADICTORY statements are circulated from day to day on the subject of the reported intention to transfer the head-quarters of the Russian army to Adrianople. These, like the late anomalous military movements, can only be accounted for in one of the two following ways—either (which is the general belief), the military authorities are themselves perplexed what to do, or they wish to baffle those who would divine their plans.

Only a couple of days ago the transfer was spoken of in military circles here as a settled thing. To-day the contrary is no less authoritatively affirmed. If the order for the suspension of the goods traffic between this and Constantinople was actually issued as reported in my despatch of the 14th instant, it was at once countermanded. On the other hand, among the signs indicating an intended transfer, I may mention the following:—First, the Governor-General and Military Commandant of Adrianople, Baron Delingshausen, who left for San Stefano some days ago, instead of returning here, has gone on to St. Petersburgh on leave of absence. Secondly, the 5th division, hitherto in garrison here, and which, as previously stated, is on account of its losses, to be treated as far as possible as a reserve force, is being moved back to Philippopolis. Three daily trains of thirty waggons each are employed for this

purpose. Thirdly, all the available empty waggons on the line are being despatched to San Stefano. I learn that it is only the less serious cases of sickness which are being removed to San Stefano. They will there, it is said, be embarked for Odessa. The call of the Russian authorities for volunteers, which met with but a lukewarm response in the town of Adrianople, has been more successful among the Bulgarians and Greeks of the villages on the skirts of the Rhodope Mountains, where military service has, by the force of circumstances, the character of an armed defence of hearths and homes, combined with the prospect of booty from their Mussulman neighbours. I learn that, within the limits of the proposed Bulgarian Principality, a military conscription is now being actively and rigorously carried out. Thirty fugitive Greek conscripts from Stanimaka passed through this town a day or two ago, on their way to Constantinople. I am told that the Russian military authorities calculate that with the addition of these native levies, their army on this side of the Balkans will be brought up to a total of 200,000. This, I may remark, is the number of men for which supplies have been ordered by the Government, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 713.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, May 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have just learnt on reliable authority, that the Russians at Rodosto have been without money to pay for supplies for at least a fortnight.

I have already made a similar report regarding San Stefano and Sharkeui.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FIFE.

No. 714.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 662.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Stokes respecting the proceedings of the Russians at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 714.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sulina, May 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russians are actively proceeding with the fortifications of the place. The battery near the British cemetery, and the one on the opposite side of the river, will soon be finished. A number of 10-ton guns and some very large mortars were landed yesterday, and some placed in the battery close to the cemetery. They are also erecting two other earthworks, one close to the European hospital, and the other in front of the European school-house.

The number of troops here at present are 2,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. STOKES.

P.S.—An English steamer, the "Cyrenian," on her arrival here a few days since, was ordered by the Acting Captain of the Port to proceed to the other side of the river and discharge 300 tons of the ship's ballast to the Russians for the use of their battery.

O. S.

No. 715.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 34. Consular.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Dr. Dickson, respecting the state of public health among the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 715.

Dr. Dickson to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, May 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the sanitary conditions of the refugees during the last week have not altered in any way. In some parts of the sixth district, more especially in Firouz-Aga and Foundoukli, these conditions could not be worse; and Dr. Gabrizzi strongly urges the necessity of removing the refugees from these two last places to Alem-Dagh.

One of the most horrid places (says Dr. Gabrizzi) into which refugees have been put is Mahmoud Pasha's Kaik-Khane at Foundoukli. It is in fact an old dilapidated boat-house, divided into two compartments by a wooden floor, which runs the whole length of it. The lower compartment is nearly filled up with the sea, which washes into it all sorts of filth and dead matter, and thus corrupts the air breathed in the upper compartment occupied by 165 refugees. But this is not its worst feature, for all the Mohammedans who die in the quarters of Top-Khane and Foundoukli are brought into this place to be washed previous to their burial. As this washing is done with hot water, the steam evolved from these dead bodies, imbued with putrid human effluvia, rises into the upper compartment and increases the unhealthiness of the atmosphere breathed there by the refugees; thirty-three of these wretched people are lying ill there, nine of them with typhus.

The Municipality hospital in Pera can only dispose of thirty-eight beds for sick refugees, while there are at least 600 of them lying ill at their domiciles.

The medical attendant on the sick in the quarter of Kassim Pasha has caught typhus, and is at present in a hopeless state.

In Stamboul also the condition of the refugees has not changed. Many of them have been put into the "Dar-ul-Shefaka" (orphanage), and many of these have fallen ill, some with typhus, and this exposes the health of the orphans lodged in that establishment to great danger. The refugees housed in the Mosque of Hafiz Pasha, and in the Kutchuk Yeni Khan, in Yeni Khan, in Yildiz Khan, and Shekerdji Khan, receive neither food nor clothing from the authorities. On the other hand, Dr. Stekoulis assures us now, that the hospital established in the Tunushu Konak has greatly improved of late. Its wards are kept clean, and the latrines are disinfected, and it only wants its old tattered stock of linen to be replaced by new linen, and a good supply of disinfectants to be provided, in order to make it quite comfortable.

The deaths amongst the refugees on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus have dwindled down to twenty per diem (or 27,000 souls). Cases of typhus, however, continue to crop up, and the overcrowding in the Konak of Fettah-Zade at Vanikeui is excessive.

There are forty huts ready on Alem-Dagh to receive the refugees. The general condition of the people at Feher Baghtche is improving; their death-rate does not exceed two or three a day, and the hospital created for them there has already taken in, from the 17th April to the 9th May, 1,062 patients, 135 of which have died.

The Commission sent by the "Préfecture de la Ville," and accompanied by Dr. Mudezian on behalf of the Health Department to examine the water in the bends which supply this city, reports that it found nothing unusual either in the bends themselves or in the ravines which had the rainfall into them, and which would tend to unfit that water for drinking purposes.

The deposit of mud at the bottom of the bends, however, was considerable. Formerly the inhabitants of the surrounding villages were bound to keep these reser-

voirs clean, and for doing this they were exempted from taxes and military service. When the "Tanzimat" was proclaimed, the Government compelled these villagers to pay the taxes and serve in the army like the other inhabitants of Turkey, and it promised to pay them for cleaning the bends, but like all other Turkish promises this was never kept, and the result has been the decay of the bends, and the waste and deterioration of their waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. D. DICKSON.

No. 716.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 320.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, spoke to me to-day with some anxiety as to Crete, and that I replied that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was not unmindful of the Cretans, and that he was taking steps with regard to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 717.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 324. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that an excellent authority in Athens considers that General Ignatiew lays much store by the importance of the Hellenic element in Turkey ("estime assez haut l'importance de l'élément Hellénique en Turquie"), otherwise he would not have included in his Bulgaria so much territory inhabited by Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 718.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 325.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 20, 1878.*

SOME letters, dated from Philippopolis, have been lately published in the "Hora," the organ of M. Tricoupi, as to the ill-treatment to which the Greeks are subjected by the Bulgarians and Russians. I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of one of these letters extracted from the "Messager d'Athènes."

M. Delyanni told me to-day that M. de Sabouroff, the Russian Minister, had spoken to him this morning on the subject of these letters, and that he had replied that he had no necessity to read the letters in the "Hora," as his Consular reports from Turkey were in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 718.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of May 18, 1878.

ON écrit à "l'Hora" de Philippopoli, le 3 Mai :—

"Nous courons le plus grand danger, la patrie n'est pas en péril d'être asservie, cela a été déjà fait, mais d'être anéantie sans gloire et par la trahison. On n'a pas fait la guerre contre la Turquie ; le Turc a été expulsé comme incapable de défendre

les Hellènes, de changer nos pays en pays Bulgares et Slaves. Aussitôt après l'abattement des Turcs a commencé l'œuvre de destruction systématique de l'élément Hellénique, œuvre dont je suis témoin et victime. J'écris sous l'empire de la plus grande indignation, non pour ce que je souffre personnellement mais pour ce que l'on entreprend contre tout ce qui porte le nom d'Hellène, contre tout établissement Hellénique, contre toutes nos idées, toutes nos espérances. Le Turc tolérait l'existence des Grecs pourvu qu'ils la rachetassent par 30 piastres d'impôt annuel. Mais le Russe et le Bulgare, qui s'appuie sur la force du premier, ne peuvent tolérer en aucune façon l'existence des Hellènes. Ils exigent notre abdication nationale, notre renoncement à notre origine. Jamais, même au lendemain de la prise de Constantinople, nous n'avons passé les fêtes brillantes de pâques dans un pareil deuil. Ceux qui habitent les pays conquis et opprimés par les Bulgares peuvent seuls comprendre l'angoisse de la nation Grecque à la vue du malheur qui la frappe. L'Europe a permis la conquête de l'Orient par les Turcs, mais si elle permet aujourd'hui une conquête plus odieuse, nous, les Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine, ne consentirons pas à vivre en Hotes, en renégats de la patrie ; nous ne nous montrerons pas inférieurs aux Musulmans. Comme ces derniers, qui se sont bravement insurgés, nous chercherons par les armes une fondre glorieuse si nous ne pouvons conjurer les dangers qui nous menacent, l'extermination qui nous attend."

No. 719.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 563.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Shah of Persia arrived here yesterday from Moscow, and was received by the Emperor and all the members of the Imperial family at the railway station, from whence he accompanied His Majesty to the Winter Palace to pay his respects to the Empress.

This evening the Shah will be present at a representation at the Opera. To-morrow there will be the annual parade of the garrison ; a breakfast at the Prince of Oldenburg's, and a representation at the Russian opera. On Saturday a grand banquet in honour of the Shah at the Palace, and a representation at the circus in the evening.

On Sunday there will be a dinner for the Shah at the Cesarewitch's, and in the evening a ballet at the Imperial theatre.

On Monday an excursion to the porcelain and glass manufactories, and in the evening a ballet.

On Tuesday an excursion to Tsarskoe Seloe, and a representation at the Chinese theatre of the Palace.

On Wednesday the Shah will leave for Berlin.

I have the honour to inclose the official account of the Shah's reception, as also a list of the members of his suite who had the honour of being presented yesterday to the Empress.

I inclose an observation, as reported by the "Moscow Gazette," said to have been made by the Shah, in referring to his enthusiastic reception at Moscow.

Although the Shah had at first expressed his intention and wish to preserve his incognito on his arrival at the Russian frontier, he changed this decision in favour of an official reception, and his expenses will be defrayed by the Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 719.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May 12/24, 1878.

LE train amenant à St. Pétersbourg Sa Majesté le Shah de Perse est arrivé à 2 heures à la gare du chemin de fer Nicolas, accompagné d'une députation du Département Asiatique du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et d'une nombreuse suite, dont nous avons déjà il y a quelques jours indiqué les principaux personnages.

Dès le matin la capitale s'était brillamment pavoisée aux couleurs Russes et Persanes. Le temps, d'abord incertain, s'était remis au beau et un soleil splendide a

éclairé l'entrée dans la capitale de l'auguste hôte de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et de notre ville.

Quelque minutes avant l'entrée du train Sa Majesté l'Empereur est arrivé à la gare, où il a trouvé déjà leurs Altesses Impériales les Grands Ducs. L'Empereur portait le grand cordon de l'ordre du Lion et du Soleil.

Le train, composé de voitures Impériales appartenant aux différents chemins du Sud, une fois arrêté, Sa Majesté le Shah est sorti du wagon et a trouvé devant lui Sa Majesté l'Empereur, qui lui a tendu la main.

Puis l'Empereur a présenté au Shah de Perse un à un tous les Grands Ducs, qui s'étaient rangés sur une seule ligne, et à chaque nom prononcé, qu'un traducteur répétait aussitôt en langue Persane, le Shah s'inclinait en serrant la main au Grand Duc présenté. Après les Grands Ducs l'Empereur a présenté le Général Feldmaréchal Prince Bariatinsky. A ce nom le Shah, comme frappé d'un souvenir, a répété son nom et lui a tendu la main. Le Shah portait le cordon de l'ordre de St. André. La présentation une fois achevée, les deux Souverains ont passé devant la compagnie du régiment de la Garde rangée sur le perron, et se sont dirigés à travers les appartements Impériaux vers la sortie, où tous les perrons étaient occupés par des dames de la société. Au bruit des acclamations d'une foule nombreuse les deux Souverains ont pris place dans une calèche découverte, à deux chevaux, et qui était précédée d'un détachement de l'escorte particulière de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, et suivi du gros de cette escorte. Venaient ensuite les voitures de leurs Altesses Impériales Monseigneurs les Grands Ducs, ainsi que des personnages de la suite de Sa Majesté le Shah et de tous les dignitaires militaires et civils qui s'étaient rendus à la gare de Moscou pour la réception de Sa Majesté Persane.

Sur tout le trajet, le long de la perspective Nevsky et de la Grande Morskaïa, ainsi que sur la Place du Palais, la foule formait la haie, et acclamait chaleureusement leurs Majestés. Tout comme le public de Moscou, le public de St. Pétersbourg a tenu à faire un accueil particulièrement cordial à Sa Majesté le Shah, qui, à plusieurs reprises, s'est si chaleureusement déclaré l'ami sincère de notre Souverain bien-aimé, et a dit vouloir toujours le rester.

Le cortége est arrivé à 2 heures 20 minutes au Palais d'Hiver, où a eu lieu la réception solennelle de Sa Majesté Persane par les dignitaires de la Cour Impériale, ainsi que par tous les généraux et officiers de la Garde, de l'armée, et de la flotte.

Pendant le trajet de la gare au palais, les acclamations du public qui éclataient au passage de la voiture de leurs Majestés se renouvelaient chaque fois au passage des voitures de leurs Altesses Impériales Monseigneurs les Grands Ducs.

La suite de Sa Majesté le Shah de Perse, dit la "Gazette de la Bourse," se composait pendant son voyage de Téhéran à Tauris d'un millier de personnes, parmi lesquelles figurait 200 soldats, avec plusieurs canons. Cette nombreuse caravane était suivie de milliers de chameaux et de bêtes de somme.

Avant de quitter Téhéran, le Shah a confié la Régence du Royaume à son second fils, Djélel Eddin, qui porte le titre de Lieutenant. Houssein Khan, le Premier Ministre, qui accompagne Sa Majesté dans son voyage, est remplacé par Sakhia Khan, époux de la sœur favorite du Shah, laquelle s'appelle Schems-ed-Daouhl ("Soleil de la Dynastie").

Le Grand Shérif de la Mecque a été officiellement informé que le Shah arrivera en Octobre pour prier sur la tombe du Prophète. Le Grand Shérif, d'accord avec les autorités Turques, a résolu d'organiser une réception solennelle au pèlerin Royal.

Sur tout le parcours de Djeddah à la Mecque, deux journées de route que le Shah fera à pied, selon la coutume, on échelonnera des postes militaires, et l'on établira des tentes de repos avec rafraîchissements.

Inclosure 2 in No. 710.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May 13/25, 1878.

VOICI les noms des dignitaires de la suite de Sa Majesté le Shah, qui ont eu l'honneur d'être présenté hier à Sa Majesté Impériale l'Impératrice par le Ministre de Perse:—

Son Altesse Mirza Houssein Khan, Sepah Salar Azom (Ministre de la Guerre, Grand Maréchal et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères).

Son Excellence Aminelmoulk, Ministre Secrétaire Particulier de Sa Majesté le Shah.

Le Docteur Tholozan, Médecin Particulier du Shah.

Mohamed Hassan Khan Sanié Daoulé, Secrétaire-Interprète de Sa Majesté le Shah et le Directeur de la Presse, ainsi que les Domaines Royaux.

Aga Réza, Aide-de-camp Général et Caissier Particulier de Sa Majesté le Shah.

Hakim Mamaleh Mirza Ali Naki, Premier Chambellan.

Mehdi Kouli Khan, Chambellan Particulier et cousin de Sa Majesté le Shah.

Inclosure 3 in No. 710.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Petersbourg" of May 13/25, 1878.

NOTRE hôte Royal (dit la "Gazette de Moscou," en parlant de Sa Majesté le Shah) a été profondément touché de l'enthousiasme avec lequel il a été reçu par le peuple de Moscou. Il a très justement apprécié ce mouvement populaire, et a parfaitement exprimé l'impression qu'il en a ressentie.

"Le peuple," a dit Sa Majesté, "possède un certain prestige, et il y a toujours de la sagesse dans son enthousiasme. Je comprends pourquoi le peuple d'ici m'accueille si chaleureusement. Il sent que j'aime son Empereur, et que je suis son ami sincère."

Avant hier, Mercredi, le Shah a assisté, à Moscou, au ballet donné au Grand Théâtre, et s'est rendu ensuite au magnifique raout du Gouverneur-Général.

No. 720.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)

St. Petersburgh, May 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation by Mr. Michell, from the "Official Gazette" of the 23 May, a notification referring to submerged torpedoes in Novorossiskoi Bay (in the Black Sea), directing that all vessels desirous of entering that bay must in fair weather lay to at Cape Penai and await a pilot. If in consequence of bad weather no pilot can be taken in, directions are given for the steering of the vessel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 720.

Extract from the "Official Gazette" of May 17/5, 1878.

(Translation.)

SUBMERGED TORPEDOES IN NOVOROSSISKOI BAY (BLACK SEA).—The Hydrographic Department notifies to mariners that in consequence of torpedoes having been submerged in the Bay of Novorossiskoi, in the Black Sea, all vessels desirous of entering the above roadstead must, in fair weather, lay to at Cape Penai and await the approach of a pilot, who will safely conduct the vessel into the harbour. When the pilot shall be unable, owing to bad weather, to come on board, all vessels in such case must shape their course from Cape Penai to Cape Mishak, and having approached within a distance of seven cables of the western shore of the bay, steer in the direction of the town between the buoys which mark the obstructions in the passage.

No. 721.

M. Schwedel to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Beust, May 30.)

(Translation.)

Vienna, May 21, 1878.

M. le Comte,

IN the despatch of the 16th instant, I had a previous opportunity of referring to the scruples occasioned by the Porte's proposal for a 25 per cent. addition to the

Customs, for the purpose of covering the expenses of sending the fugitives away from Constantinople.

These scruples chiefly consist in that such a measure, strictly speaking, would involve the suspension of the Commercial Treaties; and that, were the increase of the Customs once conceded, there might be a difficulty in taking it off hereafter, inasmuch as there appears to be no sufficient guarantee for the time it is to continue.

Moreover, it is undeniable that the real and effective control of the application of the proceeds, which, of course, would be the first condition even of a mere toleration of the proposed measure, would in any case be attended with a great many difficulties.

In consideration of these circumstances, I have thought it my duty to request the Imperial and Royal Ambassador at Constantinople not to agree to the project in question at present.

Further instructions must be reserved until the opinion of the Hungarian Ministry for Trade is known, which has not yet been sent in, and also until I am made acquainted with the views of the other Powers concerned.

As reported to me from Berlin, the Imperial German Government shares our scruples, and has already issued similar instructions to its Representative at Constantinople.

Accept, &c.
For the Minister for Foreign Affairs,
(Signed) SCHWEDEL.

No. 722.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 63. Political.) *Trebizond, May 15, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAD begged the Armenian Roman Catholic Bishop of Trebizond to inquire, from reliable persons, how far were to be admitted the contents of Ohanes Piloyan's telegram, which I communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 55 of the 7th instant.

The reply received by the Bishop from the Armenian Roman Catholic priest at Batoum is to the effect that Ohanes Piloyan, in forwarding the said telegram, yielded to foreign pressure rather than to his own conviction; that he has, however, ordered his family to depart from Artwin, from whence other families are also being induced to depart; but that there is not so very serious cause of complaint on the part of the Armenian population of Livanah against the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 723.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 64. Political.) *Trebizond, May 15, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Nihad Pasha and Ali Bey, the Commissioners appointed by the Porte to examine and report upon the question of Batoum, and who arrived yesterday from Constantinople, departed this afternoon for their destination.

Tsurouksuli Osman Pasha, and his brother Ali Pasha, the latter of whom had just returned from the Lazistan, accompany them to Batoum by order of the Porte.

I have learned, from a trustworthy source, that the Governor of that place was accused by Dervish Pasha of exciting the Laz population to oppose the advance of the Russians, and asked for his dismissal. The Governor-General of Trebizond, to whom Dervish Pasha had applied, was directed by the Porte to make no changes at Batoum before the arrival of its Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 724.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 14. Political.) *Adrianople, May 16, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN continuation of my last Report, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a further engagement which took place on the 13th, near Plevon, resulted favourably to the insurgents, who dispersed the opposing force of Cossacks, and Bulgarian and Greek volunteers, killing twenty-five of the latter.

In consequence of this defeat the Russian troops at Orlakioï advanced next day on the village of Musellim, from which the attack had been made, and which was held by 1,500 insurgents. After a smart cannonade the Turks were driven from their positions, leaving two prisoners, and leaving twenty dead on the field. The Russians then pushed on to Atteren and Demirler.

The insurgents are now in force at the following Turkish villages on the right bank of the Arda: Beïssé-Kioï, Akdja-Hissar, Taya-Kioï, Priz-Kioï, Bassoren, Karaghiozler, and Mahmoudlu (near Tirilli, not the same as Mahmoudlu-Djemaati).

The Bulgarian and Greek volunteers, to the number of 5,000, are massed at the Greek villages of Plevon and Tchekirdekli.

I am still without information from the southern parts of Rhodope; but it is believed that if there are no actual hostilities in that quarter, the attitude of the Pomaks of Sitchandjik-Dagh must be threatening, since troops have again been despatched in that direction within the last few days. I may here mention that Sitchandjik is the correct name of the lofty mountain which appears in Kiepert's map under the anomalous appellation of Kodja-Yaïla ("the Big Pasture-ground"). It is about nine hours from Demotica, and the same distance from Gumurdjina, and is nearly in a direct line between those two places.

As regards the country to the north, the reported rising of the Mussulman Albanians in Old Servia, and the highlands north of Kustendil, seems to be confirmed by the statement which a Russian officer in high command was heard to make to-day, namely, that the insurgents now hold a compact line of defence, extending from the Western Balkans down to the sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 725.

Consul-General Jones to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 2. Political.) *Christiania, May 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE just received from the British Vice-Consul at Christiansand the following information, which I have the honour to report to your Lordship:—

"The following Russian ships of war anchored in this harbour on the 20th and 22nd instant respectively:—

"The 'Djigit' steam sloop, 1,600 tons, carrying eight guns and a crew of 175 men. Commander de Livron.

"The 'Prince Pojarsky' iron-clad frigate of about 4,000 tons, carrying eighteen guns and a crew of 520 men. Commander Bassarquine.

"Both came from Cronstadt and put into Christiansand for coals, where they await orders. Rumour says that their destination is the Amour River."

I have requested the Vice-Consul to report to me the date of their departure from Christiansand, and, if possible, their real destination, and I have likewise instructed the several Vice-Consuls along the coast to observe attentively and report any movement of Russian ships of war in their several districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 726.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38, Political, of the 30th April, on the subject of the military movements in Galatz and in the neighbourhood, I have the honour to report that the regiment of Cossacks that was at Galatz left on the 1st instant, marching in the direction of Ploesti, and the same day 500 men and a battery of field artillery left Ibraïla proceeding in the same direction; two trains with Russian troops also passed Ibraïla on the Jassy-Bucharest line.

On the 2nd instant 1,000 men of the Russian Reserves arrived by the Bender-Galatz line, and on the 4th instant 600 more; both these detachments were sent on after a delay of a few hours by train towards Bucharest.

In addition to the guns mentioned in a previous despatch, of which 14 siege-guns and 10 mortars have been parked near the railway stations, large quantities of ammunition have arrived from the direction of Bucharest. The Russian vessel "Salgira" left on the 20th April, as already reported. I am told that the Commander left for Sulina with sealed orders, but her destination is said to be Kustendje, and ports on the Black Sea southward of Kustendje. The Russian vessels "Nigola" and "Hoper" are loaded with guns and ammunition, and were to have followed the "Salgira," but have received counter orders; the "Jastrib" is taking on board a similar cargo. The "Belibee" arrived from Odessa last evening with torpedoes and coal, and is now discharging both. On the 4th instant the Russian gun-boat "Sista" arrived, and after discharging a quantity of small-arm ammunition, left last night for Sulina.

The Russian demand for coal continues; on the 3rd instant one of their agents was endeavouring to get a promise of 10,000 tons within thirty days, stating that he was not particular about the price to be paid if he could get the coal within the time. Up to yesterday he could only get the promise of 1,000 tons, and further demands from Bucharest have met with no success. The arrivals of coal at Galatz on Russian account amount already to upwards of 15,000 tons—nearly equal to a year's import in ordinary times.

A quay is being constructed at Vilkova at the Kilia mouth of the Danube, similar to that being made at Reni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 727.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40, Political, of the 9th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that there have been no further arrivals of troops by the Bender-Galatz Railway; the total number between the 2nd and 9th May of men coming by this route and passing on towards Bucharest is about 4,000 men of the reserves.

The detachment of Cossacks mentioned in my despatch above quoted passed through Galatz on the 11th instant, proceeding in the direction of Bessarabia; there were, it is said, about 600.

Heavy guns continue to arrive by the Bucharest line; on the 11th instant there about 10 parked here, and some have been sent to Toultcha and Sulina, where batteries are being made. The number landed at Toultcha is said to be 24.

The Russian steamers "Jastrib" and "Belibee" left Galatz on the 10th instant, proceeding down the river.

The force that has crossed at Ibraïla does not seem to be large; I can at present get no information from Mr. Brown on the subject of the numbers or composition; he reported on the 8th instant that cavalry, artillery, and infantry of General Zimmermann's corps were coming over in squads; a local paper says that 3,500 Uhlans have crossed; I have reason to believe that the force is not so large, and almost entirely Cossacks. These men are said to be discontented, in consequence of their being paid in

paper for one season, and I was told a few days since that a large number of them would probably be sent back to Russia shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 728.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41, Political, of the 13th instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that, on the 13th instant, two steamers came down the river laden with heavy guns, material, &c., and anchored at Galatz.

Mr. Vice-Consul Brown reports that he estimates the number of Russian troops that have crossed to Ibraïla at about 1,500, all Uhlans; there have also crossed a few light field-guns.

From inquiries which I have caused to be made I learn that the Russian force at Ibraïla on the 13th instant was about 3,000 infantry, 500 cavalry, either Uhlans or Cossacks, and 1 battery of field artillery with waggons complete, 50 spare artillery waggons, and 280 horses. These troops are said to belong to General Zimmermann's command; the artillery horses are in good condition, the cavalry and transport very poor. Close to the Danube there were 4 heavy bronze guns; a gun-boat and two steam-launches were at the Russian landing-place. The bridge is open in the middle for a space of about 80 yards, and the passage is carried on by means of a raft drawn backwards and forwards, and goes on at all hours.

At Foeshani, on the 9th May, there were 1,500 Russian infantry in camp, about 150 Cossacks lately arrived from Ibraïla, and a battery of heavy field-guns. There were no fortifications, but four rifle butts had been made and rifle practice was being carried on daily.

Between Foeshani and Ploesti there were no Russian troops with the exception of a few men at the railway station at Buyen.

At Ploesti, on the 10th May, there were about 300 infantry; it was said that about 20 houses had been taken and were in use as hospitals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 729.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 440.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 29, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that four days ago he received a confidential communication from the German Government, informing him that a "formula" for the convocation of a Congress had been agreed to by the British and Russian Governments, asking the consent of the French Government to attend a Conference convoked in accordance therewith, and proposing that the Congress should be opened at Berlin on the 11th June.

M. Waddington informed me also that he had signified to the German Government the assent of the French Government to all these arrangements.

He added that at a Council of Ministers held this morning, he had himself been formally charged to represent France at the Congress, in the character of First Plenipotentiary; and that the Comte de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, would be the Second French Plenipotentiary.

M. Waddington told me, moreover, that he should be accompanied to Berlin by M. Desprez, Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, but that M. Desprez would not be a Plenipotentiary.

Finally, M. Waddington said that he had not yet received the formal invitation to

the Congress, but that he thought it probable that it might be brought to him this day by the German Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 730.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 30.)

Admiralty, May 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two letters from Commander B. F. Clark, of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," reporting his proceedings at Salonica and at Volo, and the orders which he had received from Vice-Admiral Hornby to communicate to Mr. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul, and to embark such insurgents as he may desire, and convey them to some place in Greek territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 730.

Commander Clark to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell.

"Falcon," at Volo, May 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since forwarding my last letter of proceedings, dated 27th ultimo, sent by French steamer, I received the following telegram from the Commander-in-chief on the 30th April:—

"Proceed to Salonica by Wednesday morning to embark Consul-General Fawcett. Take him to Volo and from thence to Athens or Salonica as necessary. Complete with coals before return."

I accordingly left here at 1.30 P.M. on Tuesday, and arrived at Salonica on Wednesday at 8 A.M.

There I found that Mr. Fawcett had already arrived in the United States' gunboat "Despatch," which had also the United States' Minister at Constantinople, Mr. Maynard, on board.

I left Salonica at 4 P.M. the same day, and arrived here at 9 A.M. on Thursday, the 2nd instant.

Mr. Fawcett is continuing the Ogle inquiry, and hopes to finish by Sunday.

Consuls Blunt and Merlin are still at Creditza, and I hear there has been more fighting between the insurgents and troops in that district, but cannot vouch for the truth of the report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BOUVERIE F. CLARK.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, I have seen his Excellency Rejeb Pasha, who informs me that the reported fighting at Creditza is not true. Consuls Blunt and Merlin have had several interviews with the insurgent Chiefs, who appear to be disposed to agree to reasonable terms.

B. F. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 730.

Commander Clarke to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell.

"Falcon," at Volo, May 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Saturday, the 4th, I received the following telegram from the Commander-in-chief:—

"Communicate with Consul Blunt, and embark such insurgents as he may desire, and convey them where he wishes."

I have accordingly arranged with him to go to Cathavina on my return from the

Pirœus, about the end of this week, to convey about 200 insurgents to some place in Greek territory not yet fixed upon.

I leave this to-night with Consul-General Fawcett and Consul Merlin for the Pirœus, and after completing with coal will return here.

The Ogle inquiry is finished and Consul-General Fawcett is returning to Constantinople, and Consuls Blunt and Merlin having arranged terms between the insurgents and the Turkish authorities, Mr. Blunt is remaining by himself to see them carried out, Mr. Merlin returning to the Pirœus.

The insurgents are returning to their homes, and everything is quiet here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BOUVERIE F. CLARKE.

No. 731.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 30, 1878, 5 P.M.*

THE Russian frigate "Sébastopol" left Cronstadt for Sweaborg on Thursday last.

No. 732.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 30, 1878.*

MR. MALET arrived to-day, and leaves Saturday morning for Constantinople.

No. 733.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 30, 1878.*

PRIME MINISTER came to see me to-day, to tell me that the reported refusal of Her Majesty's Consul in Crete to receive a petition from the insurgents in favour of annexation to Greece, and reported similar conduct on the part of British Vice-Consul at Santa-Maura with regard to refugees from Epirus, has created a very bad impression here.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 734.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May 30, 1878.*

I ARRIVED here last night, and have taken temporary charge of Her Majesty's Agency and Consulate-General in Servia.

No. 735.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 670.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 30, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 603 of the 11th instant, and I have to express to you my approval of the representations made by you to the Porte with a view to secure the amelioration of the condition of the Armenians under Turkish rule.

I have to add that I note your Excellency's suggestion that a Consular officer should be appointed to reside at Diarbekir, or some other place on the borders of the

country inhabited by the Kurds; and I shall lose no time in taking the matter into consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 736.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Layard.

(No. 672.)
Foreign Office, May 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 610 of the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a telegram addressed to you by Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti, embodying an address to the Queen signed by eight delegates on behalf of the populations of the Lazistan; and I have to express to you my approval of the instructions sent by you to Mr. Biliotti in reply to his telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 737.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Ragusa, May 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Harry Cooper, who has been in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the last ten months as British Vice-Consul, arrived at Ragusa two days ago, and left yesterday for England, viâ Vienna, to join his regiment.

At his departure he handed to me a despatch, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, containing a Report on the state of Herzegovina between Mostar and Trebinje, being the district through which he rode on his way to Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 737.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Consul St. John.

Ragusa, May 20, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING received on the 12th instant a telegram stating my leave was granted, I left Mostar on the morning of the 15th, and riding by Stolac and Trebinje, reached Ragusa early on the 18th.

Now that my Consular commission with Turkey is about to cease, I am anxious to bring to your notice the civility I have received from both civil and military authorities in the Herzegovina.

Before quitting Mostar I had several interviews with the Mutessarif, and on each occasion he expressed the readiness of the Turkish Government to help those Begs who should themselves be unable to rebuild the houses of or support the returning rayahs.

The Begs have, I understand, stated that they are ready to do what they can to re-establish the fugitives in their former villages. But at Mostar I had already found the opinion that little could be expected from the Begs, and the late journey from Stolac to Trebinje has convinced me of their inability to make any outlay, even if they have the will. At Stolac I heard very grievous accounts of the distress and poverty. At Ljubucki poverty and sickness stared me in the face. The country along the path from Stolac to Trebinje, and thence to the Austrian frontier, is desolated; the only inhabitants being the soldiers in the block-houses. The villages were destroyed three years ago, and the fields have since been so overgrown that their recultivation will be hard work.

The Turkish Government has not made any preparations whatever for the return of the fugitives, and the troops are suffering from scurvey. Recently more food has been issued to the soldiers; but the flour given at Stolac is so adulterated that it is positively causing disease. Meat is now issued, but vegetables are still wanted.

Medicines are also in request, and the medical attendants not having received any pay for some months, many of the comforts intended for the sick never reach their destination.

Luckily the fugitives are not returning. The few who do come into the Turkish villages only come as visitors for the day, and do not report themselves to the local authorities.

The Montenegrins and insurgents occupy the mountain districts between Nevesinje, Metollia, Stolac, and Trebinje, with head-quarters at Bilek. Along the Dalmatian frontier the insurgents hold the Popovi-Polje. Padre Mucic, at Ravno, is the nominal Chief on this side. But many of his people are collected at Grahovo and Grebci, near Slano.

Active hostilities have ceased, but the mountain path between Ljubucke and Trebinje, the only means of communication between Trebinje and the rest of Turkish Bosnia, is guarded by blockhouses, and is considered so unsafe that escorts are told off to accompany travellers.

At Stolac there is an old castle the walls of which are still in fair order and could resist any infantry attack.

Trebinje is defended by a few blockhouses on the surrounding heights, and the old town is inclosed by walls which could form a shelter for the population.

As far as I can make out the distribution of the Turkish troops in Herzegovina, on the 17th May, was as follows:—

Head-quarters, Mostar. Commander, Ali Pasha.

Mostar and camp	5	battalions	infantry.
At Blagai, Ljubucki, and Narrenta	1	,,	,,
Metokia (Gacko)	3	,,	,,
Trebinje	4	,,	,,
Stolac	2	,,	,,
Total	15	battalions	Redif Nizam.
Nevesinje and Ljubinje	2	battalions	Mustafiz.

The battalions vary in strength, but average about 750 men.

There are three mountain batteries at Blagai, and probably two between Metollia and Trebinje. At Mostar, Stolac, Pocotoly, Ljubucki, Metokia, and Trebinje there are guns of position.

If the frontiers of Montenegro be extended in the direction of Metokia (Gacko) and Bilek, as proposed by the San Stefano Treaty, Trebinje will become a second Nichsich; the object of constant attacks on the part of the Montenegrins, which the Bosnacs will find excessively difficult to ward off. Any expedition for the relief of Trebinje will have either to pass along the Austrian frontier by the Trebinjicica valley or to traverse the mountain path between Stolac and Trebinje, which is in parts scarcely passable for mounted men.

In following this path I had constantly to dismount, and my escort did quite a third of the journey between Ljubinje and Trebinje on foot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 738.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 358.)
Berlin, May 29, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs adheres to his usual reserve and reticence in regard to Eastern affairs, but I learn from other sources that his Excellency submitted to the French Ambassador on Saturday last the text proposed for the invitation to the Conference, to be held on the 11th June at Berlin, and requested him to communicate it to the French Government.

Count de St. Vallier, after correcting some grammatical error in the French version of the proposed note, telegraphed to Paris, and was authorized in reply to state that in accepting the 11th June for the meeting of the Conference at Berlin, the French Government renewed their former condition that none but questions arising naturally

out of the war, and that neither Egypt nor Syria should be admitted as subjects of discussion by Powers in Congress assembled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 739.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 31.)

Admiralty, May 28, 1878.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the requisition contained in your letter of the 27th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay has been ordered to proceed from Port Saïd to Suda Bay, Crete, with Her Majesty's ship "Minotaur" and "Defence," and that the "Monarch" and "Black Prince" have been ordered to join his flag at that place from Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 740.

Sir A. Kemball to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 31.)

4, *Chester Place, Chester Square, May* 30, 1878.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

THE revision of the San Stefano boundary in Asia is certainly a gain as far as it goes, inasmuch as it frees the high road between Erzeroum and Bayazid from the direct control of Russia, but it fails to divest the original delimitation of the aggressive character which obviously distinguishes it.

By embracing the townships of Olti, Artwin, and Kaghisman, and by crossing the Araxes above the point of the existing frontier to the range of the Koseh Dagh, the revised line still leaves to Russia the command of all the valleys leading to Baiburt, Trebizond, and Erzeroum, and deprives the Turks of any defensible positions.

The Treaty defines the Soghanli Dagh as the new line of frontier, which, therefore, under the widest interpretation, could not be carried beyond the Araxes.*

The avowed basis of delimitation would be more nearly realized if the line were drawn from the Choruk Su, at the junction of the Ardanush Su, by the Kura Chai Dagh (embracing Ardanush and Ardahan), to the crests of the Soghanli Dagh, and thence following that range to the point where the existing frontier cuts the Araxes, or to any more convenient points where the southern spurs of the Soghanli abut upon the river.

It is, of course, impossible to define the new limits by regular lines, but their delimitations would not be open to much dispute if the watersheds between the Pennek and Ardanush and Kura Su, and the chain of the Soghanli, including the northern watershed of the Araxes, were the basis assigned to it.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 741.

Sir J. Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 10. Danube.)

Chatham, May 30, 1878.

My Lord,

THE second of the Preliminaries of Peace, which formed the basis of the Treaty of Paris in 1856, referred to the liberty of the Danube, which was to be effectually secured by European institutions, in which the Contracting Powers were to be equally represented.

* Although the Soghanli Dagh is the professed limit of annexation, the line so represented in the Preliminary Treaty nowhere approaches the crests of that range within 20 miles, and at Dishaghed, at Viluaie Kelisse, and at Khanur extends over 50 miles beyond them on Turkish soil. That line further identifies mountains on the right side of the Araxes with the chain of the Soghanli, situated exclusively on the left side of that river.

This European participation was eventually confined to the Danube mouths, principally through the unwillingness of Austria to allow European interference in her waters. Two Commissions were instituted, an European Commission for the mouths of the river from Isaktcha downwards, and a Riverain Commission from that point upwards. The first Commission was to be temporary but executive, and was to transmit its powers to the second or permanent Commission as soon as its works were executed.

It soon became apparent that the European Commission was the only one capable of producing good results, and its existence has been prolonged by successive Conferences till April 1883; whereas the Riverain Commission, which was to have taken its place, paralyzed by the discordant elements of which it was composed, has not executed a single work, as far as I am aware, except the elaboration of a "règlement de navigation," which was strongly objected to by the Conferences of Paris, subsequent to 1856, and has never been amended or put in force. The changes in the state of Europe, from 1856 to 1878, have rendered necessary an entire reconsideration of the arrangements by which the liberty of the Danube was secured in 1856.

Article XII of the Treaty of San Stefano, in a few words, maintains the existing rights, privileges, and duties of the Danube Commission; but these all come to an end in 1883, unless some provision is made for their extension; and no reference is made to the Riverain Commission, to which under the Treaty of Paris these rights and privileges would pass.

The composition of this latter Commission must be materially modified owing to the events of 1866, 1870-71 and 1877-78, as will be pointed out further on.

As questions connected with the navigation of the Danube will necessarily, therefore, come before the European Congress if it meets, I venture to submit to your Lordship certain points in connection with the existing arrangement, which will require modification.

I. If the Delta of the Danube ceases to be a part of the Turkish Empire.

II. If the Delta should not change masters, but Russia should become a Riverain Power by virtue of the retrocession to her of Moldavian Bessarabia.

III. If these territorial changes take place or not, and more especially if they do.

1. If the Delta ceases to be Turkish territory, provision must be made for a revision of the Public Act, which governs all matters relating to the Danube navigation. I have noted on inclosure No. 1 in this despatch, what the details of this revision are, but they again depend on the more important question—who will be the future masters of the Delta and Mouths of the Danube? The worst masters, looking at the question from a commercial point of view, would undoubtedly be the Russians. The virtual freedom from interference and annoyance enjoyed by the European Commission of the Danube during the Turkish tenure of the Delta, would have been impossible under Russian rule, and the results achieved would probably never have been heard of.

This freedom from interference is most essential for the exercise of the Commission's powers, whether in the execution of works, in the collection and expenditure of the dues which they are empowered to levy on the navigation, or in the enactment and enforcement of the navigation rules, by which they have succeeded in introducing order and regularity into a region where, previous to the appointment of the Commission in 1856, disorders of all kinds, even amounting at times to piracy, were constantly committed.

Independently of the beneficial influence on the Danube trade of the hitherto free action of the Danube Commission, a still further and perhaps more quickly felt effect of the substitution of Russian for Turkish rule at Sulina, would be the imposition of export and import dues on all merchandise and produce passing through the Port of Sulina to and from the Roumanian ports, and the introduction of vexatious quarantine laws—those well-known weapons for delaying the movement of ships and levying dues, whose amount is far beyond the value of the service rendered.

From a political point of view, the Russian hold on the Mouths of the Danube could not fail to be pregnant with danger to any solution of the territorial difficulties in South-Eastern Europe which may now be arrived at.

They must be so obvious to your Lordship that I feel that I ought not to touch upon them, unless directed to do so.

If Russia is not allowed to keep possession of the Danube Delta and Mouths, there are two modes of dealing with this slice of territory: the one is to hand it over to Roumania, the other to constitute it a free and independent territory under the administration of the Danube Commission. I think that there are points of detail which might make the working of the Commission under the Roumanian Government

difficult. There would certainly be the same disposition to interfere with the free action of the Commission that I have indicated above, as likely to result from Russian Government in the Delta—this interference would not be of so formidable a character no doubt, but still likely to be troublesome, especially as it would be set in motion by the Agent of any Power whose influence might happen to be in the ascendant at Bucharest.

There remains the consideration of the solution which I venture to think the best and most practicable, as well as that which will secure the greatest advantages commercially and politically, namely, the constitution of a free and neutral international territory.

By the Treaty of London the works and staff of the Danube Commission were declared neutral, but it was found impossible to declare the waterway neutral, because as long as Turkey possessed so many hundred miles of the right bank of the Danube, the Sublime Porte naturally resisted every proposal which would exclude her ships-of-war from the Danube.

However Bulgaria may be constituted in future, it will be in the interest of its inhabitants as well as of the Roumanians that the Danube should be a neutral waterway. This neutrality could, I believe, be secured more effectually in the way that I have indicated than by placing it under the dominion of either Russia or Roumania.

2. The second point which I have advanced is, what changes are required if Russia insists on the retrocession to her of Moldavian Bessarabia, and thus becomes one of the Riverain Powers of the Danube. In such a case she becomes immediately interested in insisting on the dissolution of the European Commission of the Danube and in demanding the transmission of its powers to the Riverain Commission mentioned in the XVIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. Russia would doubtless have great influence in that Commission and the transmission to it of the powers now exercised by the European Commission could not fail to be injurious to the general interests of trade, and, therefore, to the special interests of Great Britain.

The composition of the Riverain Commission will, as I have said above, be modified to a great extent not only by the events of the last twelve months, but by those of 1866 and 1870-71, which have occurred since this Commission was appointed. In place of a Riverain Commission with delegates from Austria, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, and Turkey, and Commissioners approved by the Porte from the Principalities of Servia, Wallachia, and Moldavia, there would now be delegates from Austria-Hungary, Germany, Servia, and Roumania, with, I suppose, a Commissioner of Bulgaria, approved by the Porte, and, in the presumed case, a Commissioner from Russia. It is, as I have said, probable that Russia would exercise a very important and controlling influence in this Commission, from which England, France, and Italy, two of whom have far greater interests in the navigation than any of the Riverain Powers, would be excluded. England's interest, as shown by Colonel Siborne's Report presented to Parliament—Commercial, No. 6 (1878),—exceeds not only that of all the other Riverain Powers together, but of all the rest of the world.

This brings me to the third point which I have stated, namely, to the changes in the Danube arrangements which are desirable, whether any territorial changes take place or not, and more especially so if they do.

When Russia declared her intention in 1871 to throw off the trammels imposed upon her by the XIth, XIIIth, and XIVth Articles of the Treaty of Paris, I had the honour to urge upon Her Majesty's Government of that day the importance of securing the perpetuation of the European Commission of the Danube, as some sort of equivalent for the advantage thus gained by Russia and as a safeguard for British interests in the Danube. My proposition was not looked upon very favourably at first, but the Austro-Hungarian Government having pressed upon Her Majesty's Government the advantage of at least adding very considerably to the term of the Danube Commission's existence, at that time fixed for the 24th April, 1871, the plan was taken up, and the date of its dissolution was postponed to April 1883. From the negotiations which took place on this subject at that time in which I was employed in direct communications with the Plenipotentiaries assembled in London for the arrangement of the details of Articles IV, V, VI, and VII of the Treaty of London, I derived the conviction that the Commission would have been perpetuated, had the negotiations been commenced earlier; as it was, the term of extension was limited to twelve years instead of the twenty-six years, or *sine die* proposed, because there was not time to procure from St. Petersburgh the fresh instructions, without which the Russian Ambassador would not consent to the longer terms proposed.

A further proposition which I had the honour to submit in 1866, and again in 1871, was that the jurisdiction of the European Commission of the Danube should extend from Ibraïla to the sea, instead of from Isaktcha. The reasons which I then urged in favour of making Ibraïla the point at which the jurisdictions of the Riverain and European Commissions should touch, are equally valid now, as then, if the latter Commission is perpetuated.

They are not of the same importance as the perpetuation of that Commission; but if the latter measure is carried, the other would be a fitting complement to it.

There is no special reason why Isaktcha should have been named, except to comprise in the European Commission's sphere of action all the mouths of the Danube, Isaktcha being the first village above the point where the main Danube divides into the branches forming the Delta.

I propose Ibraïla as the upper limit of this Commission's jurisdiction, because it is the point to which sea-going or European vessels ascend; they rarely ascend beyond this point, as the depth of the river is seldom sufficient above Ibraïla to allow of their doing so.

It is desirable that these sea-going European vessels should remain under a single *régime* during their inland navigation, which they would do under my proposal.

The European Commission could give to these vessels, in the main river from Ibraïla to Isaktcha, the same advantages as they confer on the navigation below the latter point, without imposing upon them any further tolls. If the Riverain Commission ever becomes active above Isaktcha it will not fail to impose fresh dues on so profitable a source of revenue as would be the sea-going vessels, and which that Commission might claim for any slight improvements which they might introduce.

This proposition fell through in 1866, on account of the abrupt termination caused to the Paris Conference of that year by the outbreak of the Austro-German war.

In 1871 it also failed from want of time to explain its full bearings at the Sublime Porte. Russia in this case pretended to defer to the wishes of the Porte; the remaining Powers all concurred in the advantages of it.

If a permanent re-arrangement of the conditions under which the freedom of the Danube navigation shall be guaranteed is to be made by the Congress, I have the honour to urge upon your Lordship the importance of securing these three points:—

1. The perpetuation of the European Commission of the Danube.
2. The constitution of the Delta of the River as a neutral free territory, under the Commission's administration.
3. The extension of the Commission's jurisdiction over the water-way and the navigation to Ibraïla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STOKES.

Inclosure in No. 741.

Memorandum on the Public Act relative to the Navigation of the Mouths of the Danube, signed at Galatz on the 2nd day of November, 1865.

THE Treaty of San Stefano having stipulated certain territorial changes in the countries bordering the mouths of the Danube, but at the same time maintained the rights, duties, and privileges of the European Commission of the Danube, the Undersigned has the honour to note in this Memorandum the modifications that will be required in the Public Act which governs the action of the Danube Commission in the event of such territorial changes.

Articles IV, V, and VI.—The engagements of the Sublime Porte in these Articles must be assumed by the Powers or authorities which may in future govern the Delta of the Danube, and possess the right bank of the river from Isaktcha and the left bank from Saratoga (opposite Isaktcha) to the sea.

Should the jurisdiction of the Commission be extended to the Port of Ibraïla, it would be matter of consideration whether any of the provisions of Article IV should be made applicable above Isaktcha.

Articles VIII and XVI.—The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th paragraphs of Article VIII and the 3rd paragraph of Article XVI will require revision, and complete reconsideration in the event of the Sovereignty of the Sultan ceasing on the Danube.

Articles XI and XII.—The arrangements provided for in these Articles will

entirely depend on the extent to which Articles XVII, XVIII, and XIX of the Treaty of Paris are maintained or modified by the Congress.

Article XIV.—The last paragraph of this Article would require amendment if the jurisdiction of the European Commission is extended to Ibraila.

Article XVII.—This Article requires attentive consideration; it is to be observed that the contract under which the lighthouse administration of the Ottoman Empire is carried on by the French firm of MM. Michel and Collas, comes to an end in 1880. All the Maritime Powers have an important interest in establishing that the light dues to be levied should be revised before any new contract is made. Those now in force were established after the Crimean War. An examination into the working of the arrangement with MM. Michel and Collas would probably show that these dues are much in excess of what they should be under an economical system and with the present increased tonnage of the navigation.

Articles XVIII and XX.—The proposed changes in the East will probably lead to a modification of quarantine arrangements.

Article XXI.—It would be a great benefit to commerce and to both Roumania and Bulgaria if the Danube itself could be neutralized as well as the persons and works stipulated in this Article.

(Signed) J. STOKES.

Chatham, May 30, 1878.

No. 742.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 527. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 31, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY has accepted the note which the Porte has addressed to him inviting entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, but he thinks that his (Government?) will object to Military Convention proposed by Turkish Government.

No. 743.

Mr. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 528.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 31, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated Larissa, yesterday:—

"Thirty-six more refugee families returned yesterday from Greece to two villages in district of Carditza. The inhabitants of three other villages in same district have all returned to their homes with their cattle.

"Thirty families have returned to two villages in district of Phersala."

No. 744.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, May* 31, 1878.

CONSUL CHURCHILL writes from Baku, dated 24th instant, that two Russian officers of rank, one of them an engineer, but neither of whom was General Tchernaief, arrived the week previous from St. Petersburgh and went to Asharada in a Government boat. They landed at Gez in civilian clothing without attendants, and went to Asterabad. He adds that twenty-four large barges are being hastily prepared on the Volga for the transport of troops.

Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 745.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 31, 1878.

BRATIANO, brother of the Prime Minister, and friendly to Turkey, sails on a special mission for Constantinople. Roumanian Government wish him to establish friendly relations with Porte, and I have given him a private letter for Mr. Layard.

It would be a pity, in the interest of British trade, should Roumania lose mouth of Danube without any other means accessible to the Black Sea being given her.

No. 746.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May* 31, 1878.

LIEUTENANT MARSHALL'S Consulate duties expire in a month, and with your Lordship's approval I propose sending next week to Pirot by way of Sermendria, with the object of reporting on the present positions of Servian army along whole of the provisional frontier lines. His knowledge of Slav languages will facilitate his task, and although his journey need have no official character whatever, still your Lordship's sanction would enable me to ask for the necessary passports and letters he will require on his way to the frontier.

No. 747.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Belgrade, May* 31, 1878.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that his Government have been confidentially but distinctly advised, that Austria will not permit, either in Congress or otherwise, the extension of Servia to the south-west, nor therefore the acquisition of Novi-Bazar.

Austria, according to him, admits in principle that Servia may extend its frontiers to the south and south-east, thereby securing Nisch and the country down to Leskovaz on the one hand, and the possession of much-coveted Pirot on the road to Sofia on the other hand.

From the Minister's language, I gather that the acquisition of Pirot is the great aim of Servia, while no great hope was ever placed in the annexation of Novi-Bazar.

His Excellency informs me likewise, that Russia holds out hope that after the guaranteeing Powers have settled in Congress the main points on which they differ, Servia, with the other smaller interested States, will be heard in their own defence.

No. 748.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 143.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 310 of the 15th instant, in having declined to receive from the President of the Cretan Assembly a Petition addressed to Mr. Layard in behalf of a Cretan said to be in gaol at Constantinople for a political offence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.